

Hon. the President: We cannot extend the jurisdiction of the Court further than the limits of the Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Lord: I think we have power to add a clause to the bill to extend it, if we think proper; and I think the Mayor's Court is as capable of adjudicating upon cases as civil or three Courts.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: If I understand his honor, he desires to let parties have the option of having their cases tried in either Court, and I have no objection to that. It may, perhaps, imply that the business is not well conducted in the Small Debt Court; and if such is the case, perhaps it is an object to have the effect of making them busy up, so as to have the business better done. If experience has proved that cases are neglected in the Small Debt Court, a little opposition in this way may be of service. I may cause the Commissioners to look after the business better, so that the Court may become what it is intended to be.

Hon. Mr. Bann: The Small Debt Court is a County Court, and in order to carry out the views of his honor from Prince County (Mr. Lord), we would have to alter the City Incorporation Act. I think it is well to retain the jurisdiction of the Court to the limits of the City and Royalty. I am prepared to say that I have no grounds to find fault with the Small Debt Court. I have heard complaints myself, but being brought before the public in this manner will, I doubt not, cause the Court to look sharper after the business, and have it settled up.

Hon. Mr. Lord: I do not wish to interfere with the plan which has been adopted. I believe his honor who has just spoken is one of the Commissioners of the Small Debt Court, and those complaints must have been brought to his notice. If there are grounds for complaint, it is his duty to represent them, and see that they are removed; but perhaps to support the plan which has been adopted, and to take the ground from his own mill. Still the public interest should be looked after.

Hon. Mr. Bann: His honor has referred to me as one of the Commissioners, and I may say that, whatever talk there may have been outside, no complaints, as far as I am concerned, have been made to me in my individual capacity, I have no more power than any one of your honors. We have nothing to do with complaints outside. If they come before us as a judicial body, it will be our duty to attend to them.

Hon. the President: We would have to alter the Small Debt Court, and the City Incorporation Act. The Commissioners are appointed by the Government, but the Mayor and City Councillors are elected by the City; therefore their jurisdiction cannot extend beyond the bounds of the Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Lord: It was not my intention to move an amendment. All I intended was merely to bring before the public what I do not want to have those things repeated. I was very glad to hear the opinion of one of the Commissioners (Mr. Bann). He knows very well that there is cause for complaint.

Hon. Mr. Bann: If there are grounds for complaint against the Commissioners' Court, they may be removed before the public. If the Commissioners are guilty of any dereliction of duty, let it be represented to the proper authorities, and let them be removed and others appointed. As to our discussing the subject merely to have our sentiments go to the country, I consider it an absurdity. There is no complaint before us in an official way, and why should we be asked to express an opinion upon the subject?

Hon. Mr. Lord: If your honors are not to express an opinion till complaints come before us in an official way, we will not have much to do here. Complaints do not often come from that quarter. They are kept carefully suppressed.

Hon. Mr. Bann: I was not alluding to the Commissioners. The people know where to complain.

Hon. the President: If any of your honors are aware that any irregularities exist in any department of the public service, or in the administration of justice, it is your prerogative to bring forward some assurance to remove it. If the fault is in the Commissioners, the proper place to complain is to the Government, and if it is in the Act, you should bring forward an amendment. It will be very little service to the public to make two or three speeches, if there is no intention to bring forward a measure to remedy the evil complained of.

Class agreed to.

THE FOLLOWING PETITIONS WERE PRESENTED BY THE HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL: Divers inhabitants of the County of Prince George praying for the adoption of a decimal currency for this Island, and also that hay, straw, flour, meal, &c., be sold in future by the one hundred pounds instead of by the hundred weight, as at present. Of divers tenants on Lots Nos. 24 and 33, praying that an act may be passed to give effect to certain agreements for the leases entered into with petitioners by the late John H. Winslow, Esq., deceased. Of Elizabeth MacKinnon, teacher of the female department of the Normal School, praying for an increase of salary. Of divers inhabitants of Georgetown and Royalty, praying that an Act may be passed to give effect to the proposals of the Common of Georgetown divided and set off in lots for cultivation for a term of years, as prayed for by divers other inhabitants of said Town and Royalty.

By the Hon. Mr. Bann: A petition of divers inhabitants of the County of Prince George praying that a portion of the farm now in the occupation of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor may be set apart for the use of the citizens as a place of recreation, and a parade or exercising ground for the Militia and Volunteers.

The first four petitions above named were ordered to lie on the table.

Hon. Mr. Bann, on rising to move that the petition of the inhabitants of Charlottetown, relative to Government farm be referred to a select committee to report upon, said: I would just observe that, in my opinion, the inhabitants of Charlottetown have been grossly deceived in their expectations of the Common to private individuals. It was intended for the benefit of the inhabitants of the City, but it was all granted away by one of His Excellency's predecessors (Governor Fanning) in the year 1789. I am quite satisfied that the petitioners do not desire to interfere with the whole of the farm except of His Excellency; nor do I think he requires 100 acres of land for farming purposes. I look one half of that quantity of land would be as much as His Excellency would desire to make use of. The citizens are now without a suitable place for recreation, and they think that the Government should set apart a portion of the farm for that purpose, and give some slight compensation for what they have lost in being deprived of the Common at Georgetown which they have a Common for the benefit of the inhabitants, but ours is gone. This petition is asking for a small portion of it given back. I move that the petition be referred to a select committee to report upon by Bill or otherwise.

Hon. Mr. Lord: I do not see why such a question as this should be brought up here. We should remember that the publication of the debates will cost something. I would have no objection if the Government should interfere with the whole of the farm except of His Excellency; nor do I think he requires 100 acres of land for farming purposes. I look one half of that quantity of land would be as much as His Excellency would desire to make use of. The citizens are now without a suitable place for recreation, and they think that the Government should set apart a portion of the farm for that purpose, and give some slight compensation for what they have lost in being deprived of the Common at Georgetown which they have a Common for the benefit of the inhabitants, but ours is gone. This petition is asking for a small portion of it given back. I move that the petition be referred to a select committee to report upon by Bill or otherwise.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: I do not think we have any right to take up this matter. It is a long time since those grounds were granted away, and we must grant a satisfaction to the Government which a man has squatted on in the country forty or fifty years ago. Besides, I look upon that the grounds about Government House, as they are at present, are an encumbrance to the town, and are, in a great measure, the reason why that house appears to so many gentlemen as a place of Government House in the neighboring Colonies. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick their Government House do not look so well as ours, and it is owing in a great measure, to its being more favorably situated with regard to the ground which surrounds it, and the fact that the Government has taken possession of those grounds, or throwing them open to the public by an act of the Legislature, before I would support a motion to refer the petition to a committee to report upon.

Hon. Mr. Goff: I cannot look upon it in the same light as his honor who has just spoken. The ground was granted by Governor Fanning for a residence for the Lieutenant Governor; but it is public property, and if there is more land in it than is required for the residence of His Excellency, it is not so good a reason why it should not be appropriated for the use of the inhabitants of the Island. It is not to be granted to individuals, but to be left open to the public—as open to the public from the country as to those residing in town. None will be prevented from going there. It need not detract the appearance of Government House. The ground might be made ornamental by fencing it in and planting trees upon it. The inhabitants require a place for recreation; and the Volunteers require a place for drill and parade. If I thought it would interfere with the comfort of the present or any future Governor, I would not support such a measure. I have no objection to it, but it is a question upon my mind whether it is any benefit to His Excellency. I am therefore disposed to support a measure to further the views of the petitioners.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: I think, your honors, that the question involves a principle referred to in a very ancient record, where the King's officers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge. But as the question is closely related to the interest of the city, and as his honor the Attorney General, who is present, will no doubt give his opinion as to the legal bearing of the question, it would perhaps be prudent for me to say anything about it at present.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL: I regret that the inhabitants of the city should be under the necessity of making such an application. They had a fine piece of ground for recreation, but the Legislature thought proper to pass an Act to deprive them of it; and I mean to say that the citizens are entitled to complain against that bill, but still it became law, and therefore it is necessary to make this application. No doubt the Government House ground was granted away improvidently, as the rest of the common was. The excuse for granting away the common was, that it was a wilderness, and it was necessary to clear it down and cultivate it for the benefit of the town, and it was likely to attract fire, and thereby endanger the property in the town. However, it was granted away, which is very much to be regretted; and it is so long since it was granted that it is beyond the reach of the law to regain any part of it. The grounds are now no longer open to resort to but those of Government House, and they stand in much the same way, in a legal point of view, as the other parts of what was once the common. It is thought by some that the Governor had no authority to grant those grounds, but he may have had authority from the Governor General or from the King. However, it is not for us to inquire into an act of the Legislature could not be appropriate to any other use. Whether it is expedient to pass such an Act, it is for your honors to say. It is a question which deserves very serious attention. His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor for the time being did not, I dare say, feel himself very manly in the matter. Still, he has no doubt but that a tract of ground of this nature would be a benefit to the Lieutenant Governor. He will, of course, keep a stud of horses and some cows, and consequently will require some land for pasturage. It would also be a contribution to his salary, which would be some consideration. If the Government House ground were sold to the Government, the payment of the Governor's salary will devolve upon the Colony, which is one of the advantages which the delegates have produced to the Island. It might be a consideration whether it would interfere with the perquisites of the first Governor we may have to pay. I do not object, however, to the bill, and I will support it as part of that farm to the purposes suggested by the petition just presented. Possibly there may be enough appropriated, and still enough left for the use of our Governor.

Hon. Mr. Bann: I fancy that there can be very little objection to granting the prayer of the petition, and I also think that it is the best time to introduce a change of this sort; because the present occupant of Government House will probably be leaving it in a very short time, and his successor would not feel the want of what he never had in possession. From the geographical position of the petition, and a portion of it may be appropriated to the purposes prayed for by the petitioners without injury to the grounds. The petition was referred to a special committee, consisting of the Hon. Messrs. Bann, Attorney General and Walker, to report upon by bill or otherwise.

A bill to incorporate Summerside Bank was read, and reported agreed to without any amendment.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. SATURDAY, March 18. DECIMAL CURRENCY. On motion of Mr. McLennan, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on a petition of Richard Hunt, Ronald Macdonald, and other inhabitants of Prince County, setting forth their belief that the adoption of a decimal system of keeping accounts in the Colonies would be a benefit to the Colonies, shillings and pence, would be found beneficial, as in the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Canada; and also that it would be of advantage and more easy, if articles such as hay, straw, flour, meal, iron, &c., were sold by weight, and not by the hundred weight, but fixed at an integral of one hundred pounds, and praying the House to take the premises into favorable consideration.

Hon. Mr. Hensley asked if it was intended to make the adoption of the prayer of the petition compulsory, or merely to recognize the change as a private agreement.

Hon. Mr. Pope said that the Government did not intend, this Session, to introduce any measure for keeping the public accounts in dollars and cents. The Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had gone no further than the application of the system to the accounts of the Government, and he dealt with the subject to any great extent at present. While he readily admitted that the decimal system was far preferable, as a mode of keeping accounts, to that hitherto pursued, it would be advisable, in the peculiar position of the people of the Island, that the change should not be made until it was in accordance with the idea that the proposed change would effect any alteration in the amounts which they had to pay as rent. He would like an expression of the general opinion of the House on the subject; and, if it were in favor of the adoption of the scheme, Government might be authorized to introduce a Bill in accordance with the opinions of the members on that subject, and at the same time the question of the currency could be considered in all its relations.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY could see no advantage from a partial measure. There would be a difficulty in determining the value of a dollar, which in Canada and Nova Scotia varied from the rate in New Brunswick.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH alluded to the fact that we had on our Statute Book two several values of dollars. The gold dollar represented six shillings, while the silver coin was valued at 5s 3d. The notes of the Union Bank represented 24s, while those of the Royal Bank were based on the value of the gold dollar, 6s. An uniformity of rate would be a great convenience and improvement upon the present system. There was no doubt that the system of decimal currency was more simple than that in present use among us; but the question of a compulsory system was a matter of great delicacy and delicacy. It would be better that the people should gradually habituate themselves to its adoption.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS said that the people would readily acquiesce in the change, but it would be a matter of great delicacy to introduce a compulsory system, which over our Statute Book could be readily shown. The Union Bank had acted wisely in anticipating the time when the decimal currency would be adopted by the people of the Island.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND agreed in the opinion that the people would readily acquiesce in the change, but it would be a matter of great delicacy to introduce a compulsory system, which over our Statute Book could be readily shown. The Union Bank had acted wisely in anticipating the time when the decimal currency would be adopted by the people of the Island.

that our currency should be assimilated to that of our neighbors.

Mr. McLennan alluded to the present estimate of our currency, and the desirability of introducing a decimal system such as obtained in the neighboring Colonies. He said that, as far back as the year, 1800, an intimate friend of his, then an hon. member of this House, advocated that measure; the chief argument against the principle then was, "the time had not arrived" for the monetary system, and he hoped, however, that now he might be repeated in arguing this question. He spoke of the facilities afforded accountants by the decimal system, and recommended its use in the various public offices of the Colony.

Messrs. Hensley, Longworth, Coles, Solicitor General, Pope, and Messrs. Duncan and Howat opposed any immediate action on the subject, but would support the appointment of a Committee, to whom should be referred the petition to report thereon, by Bill or otherwise, at the next Session of that House.

LABEL BILL. Hon. Sol. GENERAL, in moving the 2nd reading of the bill in amendment of the law of label, stated that it was a transcript of the Act, known in England as Lord Campbell's Act. The rule which obtained previously to the passage of that measure was based on the principle that a defendant, in an action for libel, could not justify his conduct, because the composition of the act, and the publication of it, and that, consequently, the truth of the matter alleged to be libellous was irrelevant to the issue to be decided by a jury. The Bill also provided that the defendant should be at liberty to pay money into Court in anticipatory satisfaction of the action, and that payment would be subject to the rules applicable to the adoption of the same practice in other civil suits. Any party desirous of instituting criminal proceedings for libel had his constitutional remedy of application to the Grand Inquest of the County preserved to him intact; and an unsuccessful appeal to that tribunal would be the obligation on the applicant to pay his own costs. By the Bill, parties would be allowed to justify their statements, and an apology published in the journal in which the article complained of appeared, or in any other periodical publication, would be considered as a satisfaction to the plaintiff. The Bill also included a provision relative to parties guilty of sending letters, the purport of which was the extortion of money under threats of publication of defamatory matter.

Hon. Mr. Hensley expressed his approval of the bill, which he considered to be in accordance with the principles of our legal legislation. He thought it would be as well, in dealing with the question, to treat it in all its relations, and he would therefore embody his views on one part of the subject which was the proposed object of the Bill, by submitting in Committee a resolution abolishing the office of the Sheriff, and the criminal information in the case of private individuals.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY would have much pleasure in supporting this Bill, and also the amendment which the hon. member for East Point proposed to make. The present law, which authorized the practice of filing criminal informations, was antiquated, and it was high time that it should be abolished. He had experience enough himself in the matter to know that the Judges of the Supreme Court would seldom act upon it if they could conveniently avoid the application. (Laughter.)

MONDAY AFTERNOON, March 20. SUPPLY. The House went into Committee to consider further of a Supply. Hon. Mr. DAVIS moved the following resolution: Resolved, That the following sums be granted and placed at the disposal of the Government for the following services, viz: Southport Wharf, £270 0 0; West Point, 300 0 0; Poplar Island Bridge, 350 0 0; West River, Marshall's, Mabey's and Dog River Bridges, 300 0 0; Repairs to three Bridges on St. Peter's Road, 300 0 0; Wilnot Creek Bridge and Causeway, 300 0 0; Three Bridges on Tryon River, 375 0 0; New set of Iron Floaters for Ferry Wharf, Ch'Wtown, 250 0 0; Murray River Bridge, 100 0 0; Wharf at Morris' Shipyard, New London, 40 0 0; For building an L to Summerside, 300 0 0; New Glasgow Bridge, 60 0 0; Bridgetown South Pinette, as usual equal to the Subscription List, 200 0 0; Squaw Bay Wharf, Lot 49, 22 10 0; Oyster-bed Wharf, Rustico, 30 0 0; Wood Islands Harbor, 250 0 0; Wharf at West Point, 50 0 0; Hayden's Wharf, East River, 50 0 0; Enmore River Bridge, 30 0 0; Cooper's Wharf, Lot 13, 30 0 0; Bideford Yard Wharf, 25 0 0; Bridge at North Pinette, 150 0 0.

44032 10 0 He explained that these sums were for the large contracts undertaken direct by the Government, under the management of the Superintendent of Public Works. It was considered highly desirable that the contracts should be given out at a season when timber could be procured with less expense than in the summer. The works to be undertaken were numerous, but not more than all more than were required. Perhaps a better time could not be found to proceed with them, as the Public Accounts showed a good Revenue for the past year.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH said there was an item which would be required, for which only a trifling sum was included in this resolution, namely, a sum for renewing the Oyster-bed Wharf at Rustico. The Superintendent had been sent out to examine what amount the work would probably cost, and his report had not been received in time to have the necessary sum included in the Estimates. The whole expense was estimated at about £250, and the members for the district would be necessary, and he would be glad to see what would be required, a supplementary estimate to be brought in for the sum of 150l.

Hon. Mr. KELLY thought there was another omission in the estimates. The Superintendent of Public Works had recommended a certain sum for a Bridge on the Pasquid River, and he would be glad to see what amount the work would probably cost, and his report had not been received in time to have the necessary sum included in the Estimates. The whole expense was estimated at about £250, and the members for the district would be necessary, and he would be glad to see what would be required, a supplementary estimate to be brought in for the sum of 150l.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS said that there was no niggardly disposition on the part of the Government which had caused them to refuse the application of the accounts, and he had been made for that part of the estimate. The people of the district had subscribed 50l. towards the object, and it was shown in the petition which had been forwarded to the Executive, that the erection of the bridge would save the Government about 50l. a year, in consequence of the saving of two school-boys on each side of the river, which might be united into one. But this was not the only advantage. It would save travellers six miles, who had now to go round near the head of the river. The proposed bridge would also answer for the purposes of a public wharf. He hoped, therefore, that the Government would grant the necessary amount for the bridge, and that the Superintendent of Public Works had estimated the cost at 400l, but (Mr. K.) thought that a less sum would be found sufficient.

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Next year, however, he intended to ask for a liberal grant towards improving the harbor at High Water Point.

Hon. Mr. Pope observed that there was no large grant for any work in the district represented by the hon. member for Tignish; and he was glad to learn that this was not an oversight, as his application had been made. With respect to the application for the bridge at Pasquid, he was glad to learn that they could not all be proceeded with. About £12,000 had been allowed in all for roads and bridges, and it was quite as much as the country could afford in one year. Perhaps the hon. member for Fort Augustus would be Chancellor for the Ecology next year, and then he might put in a request for a sum for his favorite bridge. It was an event he (Mr. P.) was sure hon. members on his side of the House would not object to the (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. Coles hoped his hon. colleague would take the hint, and provide himself as well as Government this year, for there was no less than some £200 in the estimate of his own district.

Hon. Mr. Pope objected to the statement. Summerside was not in his district, and he hoped the hon. member for that town would resent the charge.

Hon. Mr. Bann supposed that Summerside was not in the district of the hon. member for the Government; but still he was interested in its prosperity. But there was some £600 allowed for his own district. Then the district of the late leader of the Government was liberally provided for, he (Mr. C.) supposed to keep that hon. member in working tune. Some £400 was set down for a breakwater at West Island, and £150 for wharves at Pinette. The grants for his own district were very small; he observed £50 allowed for a bridge at one place. He thought his colleague might proceed with the Pasquid bridge out of the district money and trust to the Government to supply the remainder. If the bridge would cost £50 in regard to what the Government could be no loser, as that was the interest of at least £1000.

Hon. Col. GRAY said it was a misfortune in this House that hon. members forgot what was done in previous years. Last Session several applications came in from his district for works required there; but they could not be complied with on account of the necessities of the other end of the County. He would not, but fair that grants should be given this year to the part of the County which he had the honor to represent. His constituents had, he believed, subscribed towards the undertaking a larger amount than was allowed by the Government. This he understood was very unusual, and he hoped, people of the district would be so liberal towards public works in their locality.

The resolution was then agreed to, as well as some others on no discussion arose. When the grant of £75 as salary of the Superintendent of Public Works was moved—Hon. Mr. DAVIS then observed that the Public Accounts showed £150 for wharves charged 19s per day for his services in overseeing works, over and above his salary of 75l. It would be better, he thought, for the Superintendent to have a fixed salary for his whole services, as he was certain that his charges in all must amount to above 300l. He would, therefore, have suggested the making of all the roads, and then they would not be made in thirty-five different ways as at present. He was not going to say anything against the present Superintendent, as he believed that he thought it would be more advantageous for the Government to give him a fixed salary, and let him devote his whole time to public undertakings.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS said the time of the officer in question was pretty generally occupied with the works of the Government. He did not see, however, that there was any great objection to the plan of allowing him the like of wages in addition when engaged in the work of supervision. If the whole sum coming to him in one year did amount to 300l, it was scarcely as much as he could have earned by erecting houses in the city. He (Mr. D.) agreed with the hon. leader of the Opposition, that he had suggested the making of all the roads, and then they would not be made in thirty-five different ways as at present; but the Government were not prepared to bring forward any proposition in the matter.

The resolution was then agreed to. On motion of Mr. Brecken, the House in Committee considered the petition of the citizens of Charlottetown and Command asking for a part of Government House farm to be set apart for a Parade Ground and Park.

After a short debate on the subject of the petition, it was referred to a select committee to report upon by Bill or otherwise, at the next Session to take any further action thereon for the present. It was, therefore, resolved that it was expedient, at that late period of the Session, to refer the petition to the Legislature, on the part of His Excellency, expressive of the thanks of the House for the various Despatches and Correspondence transmitted by the Legislature, on the part of the people of the Colony, not to assent to such Confederation.

Ordered that the Hon. J. C. Pope, Longworth, Hensley, Coles, and Mr. Sinclair, be a Committee of the part of that House, to prepare such address. After which, at a very late hour, the House adjourned. SATURDAY, April 1. The Bill to amend the law relating to the Agricultural Society was read a third time and passed. Hon. Mr. Hensley submitted an address to His Excellency on the subject of the Report agreed to by the House, relating to a new road through the farm of Alexander Hayden, of East River, and the petition of the Legislature, on the part of His Excellency, expressive of the thanks of the House for the various Despatches and Correspondence transmitted by the Legislature, on the part of the people of the Colony, not to assent to such Confederation.

the Agricultural Society, the object of which was the promotion of the best interests of the Island, the Bill was reported agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Yeo, the House went into Committee on the Report of the Special Committee on Public Accounts. Mr. Sinclair in the chair.

After some time spent in Committee thereon, the said Report was agreed to without any amendments.

Following hon. members were then appointed a Committee to report on the Contingent Expenses of the House, viz:—Messrs. Haslam, Yeo and McLennan.

Hon. Mr. Hensley, Chairman of a Committee appointed last Session to report on the propriety of opening a new road through the farm of Alexander Hayden, of East River, submitted their Report, recommending the opening of said road, and the purchase of the land on which it was to be opened, and a Committee was appointed to prepare an address to His Excellency on the subject.

Hon. Leader of the Government read a letter from W. A. Lockery, of Charlottetown, proposing the erection of a monument to the memory of the late Mr. J. C. Pope, in connection with the Lunatic Asylum, and in some of the stores and private residences of the City; which letter was accompanied by the recommendations of the Hon. Messrs. Gray and Coles.

A short discussion on the subject then took place, during which the principle was generally approved of.

The adjourned debate on the Union of the Colonies was then resumed.

After the reading of the Report of the Hon. Leader of the Government delivered an address against the arguments advanced by the Unionists on that subject, and in defence of the course pursued by him in submitting the Resolutions in amendment to those of the Hon. Colonial Secretary.

Hon. Mr. Coles then rose and spoke for nearly three hours on the subject of the debate. He reviewed the whole question of Confederation, and the various arguments advanced by the Unionists. He stated that the Hon. Leader of the Government had exceeded the authority of last Session by the appointment of Delegates to Canada; and whereas that House, by resolutions, declared that Confederation was not to be assented to, he (Mr. C.) thought that the Government should appoint no Delegation, or take any action to alter the Constitution, without the express authority of the Legislature. A discussion then ensued on the subject of that Resolution, when it was argued that the adoption of such a course was unusual, and would place the Government under the prerogative of the Government, which was not the prerogative of the Government. The question was then put on the said resolution which was negatived on the following division: Aye—Hon. Messrs. J. C. Pope, Gray, Longworth, Laird, Dey, Kaye, Col. Secretary, Solicitor General, Whelan, Thornton, Messrs. Ramsay, Montgomery, Haslam, Yeo, Brecken, Howat, Green, McLennan—19. Nay—Hon. Messrs. Coles, Hensley, Warburton, Beaton, Kelly, Messrs. Sinclair, Conroy, Howland, Walker, Sutherland—10. The Resolution was accordingly lost.

In the fall not too deep. In the spring the land should be harrowed previous to sowing, and when the seed is sown, made perfectly level and well pulverized with the harrow. It requires nothing further until ready to put in. In Ireland the flax is usually sown in a river or pond until the straw is sufficiently rotted. I believe here it is better to rot, but care should be taken, by constant turning, that it does not mould, and become useless. Last season I grew a considerable quantity of flax. Many of my neighbors considered it as good as is usually grown in Ireland, and I feel convinced, if the Government were to give some encouragement to its cultivation, flax would, ere long, become one of our principal articles of export.

At present, I believe, there is not any kind of flax mill on the Island, and it is impossible to prepare large quantities for market by hand, especially in the fall of the year, when preparation has to be made for the ensuing spring's crop. I intend this season to sow a larger crop than usual. I shall measure the ground carefully and the seed soon, so that I may be able to find out the value of the crop per acre and quantity of seed sown.

If these few remarks have the effect of inducing others to try experiments in the cultivation of flax, or any other seed that increases the value of our exports, or articles for home consumption, I shall have attained my object—the improvement of our resources.

I remain yours very truly, JAS. WARBURTON. Hon. E. Whelan.

THE POSSE COMITATUS. A weekly school-boy in the country reads in Ross a Weekly about the Posse Comitatus. Grandmother sitting by—having lost some teeth, is rather hard of hearing—says, "What is that, child?" Boy—A big lot of Yankee coming down to buy potatoes. Grandmother—I wish they would, as we have a good lot. In spare this spring, Boy proceeds with his reading. Grandmother, after musing awhile, asks for the paper, hunts round for her spectacles, and commences reading; coming to the word "patrons," says, that is not the way they spelled "patrons" when I was a gal, but I s'pose spelling has changed since my time. Grandmother, and means common potatoes! Common taters, indeed! exclaims grandmother indignantly; hang thy Yankee piece, our taters are better than any they eat, raise, or they wouldn't be sneaking down here every year to buy them. Gives back the paper.

Boy reads—The Posse Comitatus are to be armed with bricks. Grandmother—Pay for them in bricks! Well did I ever—if thy bricks ain't no better than thy pick-up jerricks, thy rotten cloth and other notions, they'd better leave thee to home. What next will thy Yankee varmint bring to sell? Boy thunders, suggested the wag. I should not wonder, child, says grandmother, and they would try and make the tenants believe they would make a capital investment to use between them and the landlords; or try to make people believe they would make excellent plaster to patch up their crazy government! But I'm afeared them shells would do the people's eyes no more good here than they did at Bedoune once, because they'd make what the Bible calls antepred mortar!

Ordered that the Hon. J. C. Pope, Longworth, Hensley, Coles, and Mr. Sinclair, be a Committee of the part of that House, to prepare such address. After which, at a very late hour, the House adjourned. SATURDAY, April 1. The Bill to amend the law relating to the Agricultural Society was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. Hensley submitted an address to His Excellency on the subject of the Report agreed to by the House, relating to a new road through the farm of Alexander Hayden, of East River, and the petition of the Legislature, on the part of His Excellency, expressive of the thanks of the House for the various Despatches and Correspondence transmitted by the Legislature, on the part of the people of the Colony, not to assent to such Confederation.

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the insolent bravado of Catepole Curtis. It had been soundly pummeled nobody would have pitied him, because he had selected a most proper time and occasion for attempting to make his arrest. If he wanted to secure his prisoner, he should have gone to the man's place of residence. If he did not find him there; or, if, on finding him, he was obstructed in the execution of his duty, all he would be required to do would be to report the facts of the case, and leave the higher authorities to deal with the matter.

This fellow Curtis was, however, evidently, from the first, afraid to trust his four worthless bones into the settlement in which Sam Fletcher lives. He would fain be a bully in the vicinity of the Police Court, under the eye of the police officers, where he attempted to make the arrest; but like most other bullies and braves, he seems to be one of those unfortunate sent into the world without judgment or discretion, and who can succeed in nothing but in bringing into contempt the little authority which they may be invested.

Foiled and fuming, the crest-fallen Deputy reported to his Master that he could not, or would not, attempt to take the redoubtable Sam Fletcher and the other person who put the Deputy in the mud, unless a force were placed under the authority of the Sheriff. There was no alternative for the Sheriff but to apply to the Executive for instructions. He got them. He was told that he must execute the duties of his office, and if necessary to call out the posse comitatus to help him. He obeyed his instructions faithfully. He called out the posse comitatus. In doing this we cannot excuse the Sheriff. The only way we can attach to him is, in taking at the commencement of his Shrovetide such a wretched tool for a Deputy as Catepole Curtis, who had caused all this trouble.

A few paragraphs more will suffice to describe the closing act of the Farce. The Sheriff's draughted men—the conceits—the select party—embodied on the Bank punctually at the hour, eight on Friday morning. There was some commotion in the town. The shutters of the shops were not, generally, down, and the Bank was closed. The party left for Southport, where the robbery was called. The valorous men—very considerably short of the Two Hundred—were named to their names, then proceeded to the scene of war. Some were in wags—the most uncouth and rickety concerns that could be seen, or for the occasion, some on horseback—broken-winded, dilapidated nags, which, if the season favoured, the crows would have special adored, and a considerable number preferred to propel themselves on "Shank's Mare." The animal being notoriously slow, the gentlemen who used it—lightly-dressed, delicate-limbed gentlemen, having no great physical powers—set out on the belief that they might possibly make a journey to Vernon River in three days, that at the rate of five miles a day. The pedestrian, however, accomplished wonders. A few, indeed, stepped to rest themselves at Mrs. Long's excellent hostelry on the south side of Tea Hill—about four miles from the Ferry, where they were taken by their companions (not in arms) on their return from the seat of war;—but the majority of the pedestrians went three miles further, to Prang at Lot 49, which they regarded as the ultimate of pedestrianism, at least for that day.

We have no authentic record of the proceedings which occurred at Vernon River when the Sheriff and his reluctant followers—mangled and weary—reached that place. The camp followers reported, however, that a case of war was held at Adams'—(in that snug place, where so much Tenant League plotting has been done)—and the plan of the campaign against Sam Fletcher was then and there determined upon. It was resolved to strike the "herd" and "great-dismemberment" at the relations Sam on the following morning; and when the momentous morning of Saturday came, the Sheriff and his Deputy, with a very much reduced force of the posse—some having retreated down—and others reported on the highway disabled and unfit for service—proceeded to encounter the enemy. Nothing serious obstructed the march of the gallant force. Tenant League were, indeed, seen along the roadside, their faces radiant with suspicious if not malicious smiles. On the line of march only one portentous battle was seen. It was inscribed in large letters "Nine Pounder," but there was no necessity for putting such an inscription upon it; for there it was, plain to be seen—nine worn-out stove pipes, protruding from an embankment of mud and sand, behind which stood two officers, to present the gunners, dressed in the most picturesque fashion.

The abode of rebellion was at length reached but Sam, the ungrateful dog! for whose presentation to the High Sheriff and his select party elaborate preparations had been made—had taken himself to parts unknown; but whether business or on pleasure our informant says he had, however, some little politeness in him. He left a representative at his gate—an effigy, straw, clothed in garments out of the finest newest texture, nor of