also, that this is not Old Ireland, but simply young Prince Edward Island.

Mr. *N. Conroy* would give his decided opposition to any increase, knowing, as he well did, how difficult it was for the tenants to pay the present tax.

Mr. *Clark*. I am not yet convinced that it would be good or sound policy to increase the present tax. I should be sorry to doubt the sincerity of those hon. members who say "Increase the Tax upon Land, and decrease the Tax upon other commodities;" but who can say, or who can guarantee that, when the time arrives for the House to make a reduction of the duties, some other public work or improvement may not be thought more requisite than such reduction, and ought to be attended to, in preference to it. I shall not, therefore, vote for an increase of the present Tax.

Mr. *Mooney*. I entirely coincide, Sir, with what fell from the hon. member from Prince County, (Mr N. Conroy.) When he said the tenants experience great difficulty in paying the present tax, he spoke the truth, and nothing but the truth, I am, Sir, really surprised to hear hon. members make so light of the tax, and think it is no trouble, or in any way difficult for the tenant to raise the money. This is a proof to me, Sir, that they know nothing of the situation of the people, and apparently forget the numerous applications this year by petition, praying us to appropriate moneys to purchase seed grain and potatoes. They seem also to lose sight altogether of the large sum that was appropriated for a similar purpose last year, and that the people have not yet repaid all the money; and that one petition sets forth that, if they are compelled to pay it, it will be their ruin. I should consider the present tax a very unjust one were it not that if it be repealed, the Quit Rent—as the hon. Speaker observes—may be again revived. Any man that has a farm, says the learned member for Charlottetown, ought to feel that he should contribute to the revenue. That is all very well, Sir: it is easy enough to feel, but it is not so easy to pay. He (Mr. Palmer) thinks the tax nothing at all. I am most happy to think he does not occupy a seat here as the representative of any country district; for I see he just knows nothing at all about the condition of the generality of the farmers of this Island. I agree for once with some part of what has fallen from the hon. member for the Third District of Prince County, Dr. Conroy, relative to education; but, Sir, there are more pressing wants that must be first attended to. First, there are the stomach's wants, often very scantily supplied. Secondly, the body must be clothed before we clothe the mind. Many things have to be done to the land; before we sow our visible seed, the soil must be made fit to receive it. So, in like manner, there are many things to be done before the figurative seed of education be *broad-cast*, or it will not produce the expected fruit. I am not, Sir, altogether of opinion that education will supply all the other numerous wants felt by the people; neither am I thoroughly convinced that it is a plan altogether good to fill a tub too full, whether it be clean or dirty. I am fearful that, so long as the farmer is so circumstanced that he cannot afford to lose the labor of his children, so long will their education be neglected. I should not, therefore, support an increase, even if it were to be applied for the extension of education.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

SATURDAY, March 18.

Mr. *D McLean*, as chairman of a special committee, introduced a Bill relative to the Currency, which, on motion, was read a first time, and its second reading ordered for tomorrow.

Election Laws.—Mr. *Palmer* introduced a Bill to consolidate and amend the Election Laws, which, on motion of the hon. member, was read a first time, and its second reading ordered for Wednesday next. It is a very long Bill, and embraces a number of alterations: the main one appears to be, the adoption of the principle of simultaneous polling.

Books.—Mr. *Haviland*, in accordance with previous notice, introduced a Bill relative to the importation of Books, with the view to protect the British Authors; which, on motion of the hon. member, was read a first time, and its second reading ordered for Wednesday next.

Bill to vacate Seats of Members.—On motion of Mr. *Thornton*, this Bill was read a second time, and thereupon submitted to a Committee of the whole House. Mr. Clark took the chair. A debate ensued, and much difference of opinion prevailed. Ultimately, on motion of the hon. Speaker, the chairman reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Treasury.—Mr. *Rae* moved that an Address be presented to His Excellency, requesting him to take steps, to complete the correspondence, in His Excellency's possession, relative to the Treasury of this Island; the incompleteness of which prevented His Excellency from laying before the House the portions in his possession. The motion met with much opposition.

Dr. *Conroy* moved an amendment for the appointment of a Committee to investigate forthwith the affairs of the Treasury; which, on a division, only found Messrs. J. H. Conroy, Douse and D. McLean to support it.

The original resolution was then put and carried, and a Committee appointed to prepare the Address.

Governor's Salary.—Mr. *Haviland* moved an Address to His Excellency, requesting him to lay before the House any despatches relative to the salary of Governors of this Island. Motion granted, and a Committee appointed, to wait on His Excellency.

TUESDAY, March 21.

Census.—Mr. *D. McLean*, introduced a Bill to regulate the mode of taking a Census of this Island. On motion of the hon. member, the Bill was read a first time, and its second reading ordered for to-morrow.

Currency.—On motion of Mr. *D. McLean*, the Currency Bill was read a second time, submitted to a committee of the whole House,—Mr. Whelan in the chair. Subsequently to a brief discussion, on motion of the hon. Speaker, the Chairman reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Vacating of Members' Seats.—On motion of Mr. *Thornton*, the Bill declaring what offices shall be considered offices of emolument, the acceptance of which, by members of the House of Assembly, shall cause their seats to become vacated, was read a second time, and committed to a Committee of the whole. After some time spent in discussion thereof, the Bill was reported agreed to with amendments.

WEDNESDAY, March 22.

Mr. *D. McLean* moved the second reading of the Census Bill; and, on further motion that the House go into Committe on the same,—

Mr. *Rae* moved, as an amendment, that the House go into Committee that day six months, urging many reasons in support of his motion. The country, he said as he was every day more and more convinced, was in a much worse condition than some hon. members suppose it to be. He would be pleased to find, hereafter, that he was mistaken; but he was of of opinion, that more distress would exist in some parts of the Island this year than he had ever known to prevail in it before. As the benefit to be derived from a Census would not be much, in comparison with the expense which the taking of it would occasion, and as so many more important demands existed, to which our disposable means ought to be applied, he hoped the measure would be delayed till more auspicious times.

A short debate ensued, after which the question being put on the amendment, it was negatived by a majority of 11 to 6. The original motion was then put and carried; and the House went into Committee. Mr. McDonald in the chair. Soon after a Message was announced from the Legislative Council; and the Committee adjourned.

Message from Legislative Council.—The message alluded to informed the House that H. M. Legislative Council had agreed to the *Seal Fishery Bill*, without amendment.

THURSDAY, March 23.

Copy-Right Bill.—On motion of Mr. *Haviland*, the Bill to regulate the importation of Books, and to protect the British Author, was read a second time, and committed to a Committee of the whole, Dr. Jardine in the chair. The hon. member, Mr. Haviland, explained the principle of the Bill; which, he said, if it became law, would have the effect of so reducing the price of Books, that we might expect to see rise up good Book-stores and circulating Libraries. The Bill, he observed, was founded on a Despatch from the Home Government, which had hitherto been disregarded, and the benefit to be derived from legislative action thereon quite overlooked. Having passed the Committee, it was reported agreed to with amendment, and ordered to be engrossed.

Currency.—In the afternoon sitting, on motion of Mr. *Whelan* the House went into Committee, to resume the consideration of the Currency Bill. Much discussion ensued as to determining the weight of Dollars, which was not settled when the Committee adjourned.

Duties Lost to the Revenue.—Dr. *Conroy*, as chairman of a Special Committee, reported the amount of goods imported into the Island, during the absence of the late Governor in September last, upon which duties were not paid. The report having been read, the hon. member moved that the House go into Committee on the same to-morrow, and then the House adjourned.

Gleanings from the last English Papers.

THE CORN TRADE.

The Corn trade has been in a dull and inactive state during the fortnight. The foreign arrivals continue on a very limited scale, nevertheless holders are not able to improve prices. At Marklane, on the 14th instant, English Wheat sold at the currency of the previous Monday, whilst foreign was a shade lower. Flour maintained our last quotations. In Indian Corn the transactions were of a trifling character. No feature worthy of notice in any article took place in the markets held in London on the 16th and 18th instant. At the provincial markets held during the week ending February the 21st, business was dull, and prices tended downwards. The advices from Scotland state, that, at Edinburgh and Glasgow, the trade was very inactive, and that Wheat had receded, during the period above noted, from one 1s. to 1s. 6d. per quarter. Since the 21st, the markets throughout the United Kingdom are rather firmer; and, in a few instances, prices manifest an advancing tendency. It is worthy of remark, that although the period is now at hand when the Corn duties will again be reimposed to a small extent, there is not much prospect at present of prices rising much beyond the rates now current. This arises from two causes, namely, the absence of an Irish demand for almost every article of bread-stuffs, and the encouraging appearance of the Wheat plant. Furthermore, it is admitted that the very large quantity of foreign Wheat and Flour which has been consumed in this country during the autumn and winter, must have left a larger proportion of the last crop in the hands of farmers in this country than they usually hold at this period. It is, therefore, reasonable to infer that, unless encouraged by boisterous and ungenial weather, they will, after the sowing season bring forward good supplies. At the present time the value of the best Western Canal Flour is about 27s. 6d.; Indian Corn, 26s. to 30s.; American Wheat, 60s. to 68s., and Canadian, 56s. to 62s. 8d per quarter.

THE RUSSELL MINISTRY.

The present Ministry are evidently doomed, and betray all the vacillation of lost men. Defeated in the Lords on the Diplomatic Relations Bill—defeated in the Commons on Mr. Ward's motion for money—opposed on the budget, and obliged to make explanation after explanation—having recourse to a secret committee for the estimates, and then giving that up as impracticable—their reign seems of but short duration. Having first opposed the income tax when it was recommended in order to relieve the springs of trade, and make up for the defalcation of their own miserable addition to taxation in 1840, and now adopting it, and extending it, on pleas, that are at once trifling and insulting—having advocated economy in opposition, and been unexampledly profuse of expenditure in office. On Tuesday night they gave up the secrecy of the committee on the navy and army estimates they had proposed the night before. They found it was warranted neither by precedent nor reason, and whatever motives they might have for concealment, they were compelled to yield to the good sense of the public. We shall now probably know the true reasons for increasing the navy and army estimates, and how much of that increase is due to their own timidity and want of confidence in the people, and how much to the influence of interested advisers.

SIR R. PEEL AND THE CONSERVATIVES.—Sir Robert Peel has formally resigned the leadership of that section of the Conservatives who attached themselves to his policy. That party has resolved to hold an independent position, watching the course of events, supporting good measures, and ready to take office when their services may be required. Sir Robert, however, has determined not again to take office, for the labours of which he feels unequal.

FOOD FROM AMERICA.—A parliamentary return shews that the various sums paid by the Government for freights on donations of food from America, for the relief of the poor in Ireland and Scotland, in the course of 1847, amounted to £41,725 8s 5d; and that £948 9s 1d was further paid for freights from port to port in the United Kingdom.

THE BRITISH AND NORTH AMERICAN ROYAL MAIL STEAM SHIPS.—During the past year this admirable line of steamers made 20 voyages to and from Liverpool and Boston, the distance steamed being 120,000 miles. The number of passengers conveyed from Liverpool to Boston amounted to 1804; from Liverpool to Halifax, 249; and from Halifax to Boston, 247. On the return trips, the numbers were, from Boston to Halifax, 253; from Boston to Liverpool, 1484; and from Halifax to Liverpol, 270. The average time of each passage out was 15 days, and each passage home 13 days, inclusive of the detention at Halifax.

Many ladies at Naples, when attending balls or private parties, now wear tricolor cockades, instead of flowers, in their hair.

DEATH OF LORD GRANVILLE SOMERSET, M. P.—This nobleman, whose name has been familiar to the public for some years back in connexion with political events, died on Wednesday evening at his residence 81, Harley-street, aged 56 years. His Lordship had been suffering for some time back from an affection of heart, and general depression of the nerves owing to mental excitement; but until the 19th inst. no dangerous symptoms manifested themselves. From that day he gradually sunk, and died as already stated.

CHELTENHAM LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL INSTITUTION.—Mr. *Humphreys' Lecture on History.*—On Friday evening, E. R Humphreys, Esq., of Prince Edward Island, North America, delivered a lecture at this Institution on the "Claims of History as a Study." The lecture was re-delivered on Wednesday morning, as the first of a course of lectures on "Modern History."—Cheltenham Free Pre s.

By the last Mail we learn that the Right Rev. John Bird Summer, Bishop of Chester, brother to the Bishop of Winchester, and second cousin to the Hon. W. Swabey of this town, has been created Archbishop of Canterbury, on the death of the late incumbent. The appointment is universally approved of by the Clergy and people of England.—*Gazette.*