

# 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. XIV.

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Monday, May 9, 1864.

New Series.—No. 23.

## BARGAINS IN BOOTS & SHOES.

### RENFREW HOUSE

Ladies' Elastic Side Serge Boots,  
Ladies' Balanored Serge Boots,  
Ladies' Side Lace Serge Boots,  
Ladies' Kid & Patent Boots,  
Grained Calf & Kip BOOTS  
Ladies' Calf & Patent Shoes,  
Ladies' Calf & Patent Slippers,  
Misses' Calf Boots,  
Misses' Patent Boots;  
Children's Boots & Shoes in great variety,  
Men's Calf & Patent Congress Boots,  
Men's Calf & Patent Broguans,  
Boys' Broguans, &c.

We are now offering the above goods at COST, to make room for Spring Importations.

DELANEY & WILSON,  
Great George Street,  
Charlottetown, May 2, 1864.

MRS. WENTWORTH STEVENSON  
is desirous of obtaining a situation as BOOK  
KEEPER or GENERAL CLERK in Charlottetown  
or vicinity. Would also accept of any  
"copying" in a Solicitor's Office.  
May 2, 1864. (Other papers please copy.)

RUM and GIN!  
TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION,  
Immediately on arrival of "Edwin & Lizette"  
from LEVERPOOL, G. B.

15 Hhds Choice Demerara Rum,  
15 do Do-Kooper Gin.  
TERMS—All sums under £50, three months; over  
£50, six months' credit, on approved joint notes.  
WILLIAM DODD, Auctioneer,  
Charlottetown, April 25, 1864.

Horse! Horse! Horse!  
THE Subscriber has FOR SALE a  
THOROUGHBRED CART COLT, 3 years  
old, of the old Champion and Clydesdale breed,  
weighing 1500 lbs.—161 hands high. A better  
stock for the country cannot be imported.  
Terms liberal.

GEORGE COLES,  
Charlottetown, May 2, 1864.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.  
THE Subscriber is instructed to offer at  
AUCTION, upon arrival of the cargo of the  
Brigantine "Helen Duvine," expected here about  
15th MAY, from BARBADOS and DEMERARA,  
consisting of—

60 Tierces Prime Muscovado SUGAR  
10 Hhds do do do do do  
50 Hhds do do do do do  
200 Pms Heavy retailing MOLASSES,  
30 do Strong Demerara RUM,  
200 COCON NUTS.  
TERMS LIBERAL.

J. & T. MORRIS, Auctioneers,  
May 2, 1864.

Carlton's  
Condition Powders!  
CADIZ SALT!  
7500 BUBBLES to arrive at BUC-  
TOUCHE, N. B., per BARQUE  
"ISABEL," about 15th MAY. Apply to W. H.  
M. C. SCOTT, Shediac, or J. S. CARVELL,  
April 18, 1864. ad pro fit.

## LITERATURE.

### THE VIRGINIA MOTHER.

My home is drear and still to night,  
When Shendadoh, murmuring flows,  
The blue ridge towers in the pale moonlight.  
And balmily the south wind blows;  
But my fire burns dim, while atwain the wall  
Black as the pines the shadows fall;  
And the only friend within my door  
Is the sleeping hound on the moorlit floor.

Roll back, O weary years! and bring  
Again the gay and cloudless morn,  
When every bird was on the wing,  
And my blithe, snapper boys were born!  
And my Courtney fair, my Philip bold,  
With his laughing eyes and his locks of gold,—  
No nooted bird in this valley wide  
Sung as my heart, that ev'ning.

Our laurels blash when May-winds call;  
Our pines shoot high through mellow showers,  
So rosy-flushed, so slender-tail,  
And his boys grew up from childhood's hours.  
Glad in the breeze, the sun, the rain,  
They chased the heights or they roamed the plain,  
And found where the fox lay hid at noon,  
And the sky fawn drank by the rising moon.

O Storm, look up! you never may hear,  
When all the dewy glades are still,  
In silver whistles, fine and clear,  
Their whistle stealing o'er the hill!  
And fly to the shade where the wild deer rest,  
Ere morn has reddened the mountain's crest;  
Nor sit at their feet when the chase is o'er,  
And the antlers hang by the sunset door.

What drew our hunters from the hills?  
They heard the stormy trumpets blow:  
And left adown like April rains,  
When Shendadoh rang below.  
One to the field where the old flag shines;  
And one, alas! to the traitor's lines!  
My tears—their food and arms round me thrown—  
And the house was hushed and the lillies lone.

But, ah! to feel my boys were dead,  
Was more than loss or battle's steel,  
In every shifting cloud that rose  
I saw their hostile squadrons wheel;  
And heard in the waves, as they hurried by,  
Their hasty tread when the fight was nigh,  
And deep in the wall which the night-winds bore,  
Their dying moan when the fight was o'er.

So time went on. The skies were blue;  
Our wheat field yellow in the sun;  
When down the vale a rider flew,  
"Ho! neighbours, Gettysburg is won!"  
Horse and foot, at the cannon's mouth,  
We hurried them back to the hungry South;  
The North is safe and the vile murderer  
Curses the hour he crossed the border.

My boys were there! I nearer press—  
"And Philip, Courtney, what of them?"  
His voice dropped low: "Oh, madam, rest,  
Falls sweet when battle's tide we stem."  
Your Philip was first of the brave that day,  
With his colors grasped as in death he lay,  
And Courtney—well, I only knew  
Not a man was left of his Rebel crew!"

My home is drear and still to night,  
When Shendadoh, murmuring flows,  
The blue ridge towers in the pale moonlight,  
And balmily the south wind blows;  
But my fire burns dim, while atwain the wall  
Black as the pines the shadows fall;  
And the only friend within my door  
Is the sleeping hound on the moorlit floor.

Yet still in dreams my boys I own;  
They chase the deer o'er the dewy hills,  
Their hair by mountain winds is blown,  
Their about the echoing valley files.  
Wafts from the woodland, springing blaine  
Come as they open this door of mine;  
And I hear them sing by the evening lake,  
The songs they sang in the vanished days.

I cannot part their lives and say,  
"This was the traitor, this the true."  
God only knows why one should stray,  
And one go pure death's portals through.  
They have passed from their mother's wail and cry,  
But my heart weeps in the yearning prayer,  
That his longer love the two enfold—  
My Courtney fair and my Philip bold!

### CHASED BY WOLVES.

It was a wild scene in Bohemia, along  
the base of Erzberg mountains and on  
the banks of the frozen Eger. It was mid-winter,  
and the snow lay deep upon the ground,  
but so harshly congealed that the sharp iron  
shoes of our swift going steed scarcely did  
more than indent it, and flake it up with a  
cripy sound, and the polished steel runners  
left two narrow, burnished tracks behind  
us. The descending surf glistened a-kant,  
with a pale, cold look, and with no more  
seeming warmth in its rays than in those  
of the moon.

"How far now to Carisbad?" I said to  
the driver, with nearly my whole face muf-  
fled up in furs.  
"A matter of four leagues it may be," he  
answered.  
"At this rate, how much longer on the  
road?"  
"Two hours."  
"The sun is about that high."  
"We shall enter the town at early candle-  
light."  
"Provided we meet with no accident,  
Jules!"  
"Always so provided your honor!"  
On we went, up hill and down, the merry  
bells ringing clearly in the forest air.  
At length we reached and slowly ascend-  
ed a long, steep elevation, whose descent,  
by a narrow, winding road, or path, led  
down again to the banks of the frozen Eger,  
along here and there precipitous ledges,  
over which a chance slide might be fatal.

"Have a care, Jules," I said, warily, "or  
we may never see Carisbad!"  
"Never fear, your honor! I've been  
over this route many a time without ac-  
cident! It was my confident reply.  
He said—'Never fear'—but I did, and not  
without reason—for, soon after, his horse  
slipped, and plunged maily down a  
dangerous declivity to the right, but fortu-  
nately not a precipice. A car, going with  
the velocity of its own momentum, down an  
inclined plane, would convey some idea of  
our speed. Jules exerted all his strength  
and skill to check the flying b—st—but the  
horse could not have stopped himself before  
reaching the foot of the hill. As it was,  
he plunged on for a quarter of a mile further,  
and then slipped and fell, and broke his har-  
ness badly. We had received no injury,  
which was wonderful, considering the dan-  
ger we had run of being upset, or dashed  
against some of the trees that we had passed  
so close as to graze the bark.

"Here's an unfortunate situation!" said  
Jules.  
"Thank God, that we have come to a halt  
at last with all our bones whole!" said I.  
There was no use in considering, debating,  
or complaining; we both saw exactly what  
we had to do, and who had to do it; and so  
we both went to work with a will.

When we at last reached the highway  
again, all safe and ready to resume our jour-  
ney, the sun was down, and the gloom of  
twilight was upon us.  
"How far now, Jules?"  
"Two leagues, sir!"  
"Which, in our present condition, is equal  
to what three would have been before the ac-  
cident!"  
"I think so, your honor!"  
I had just taken my seat in the vehicle,  
and Jules had just gathered up the reins  
for a fresh start, when a solitary, distant,  
dismal howl was borne to our ears.

"Ha! do you hear that?" cried Jules.  
"I do!" said I, with a shudder.  
"May God be merciful to us this night!"  
ejaculated the driver, as he started the  
horse forward, but with a caution that show-  
ed how much he feared a sudden strain  
upon the harness, on which, it might be, our  
very lives depended.

To understand our feelings, as we breath-  
lessly listened for an answer to that solitary  
call, it must be known that the wolves of  
that region were large, strong, daring and  
ferocious, and at such a season of the year,  
were often sufficiently maddened with hun-  
ger to attack any living thing, either man  
or beast, more especially when collected to-  
gether in formidable numbers. The single  
howl we had heard was the night-call of  
some lonely beast to his distant companions;  
and just in proportion to the number of  
these calls and replies, and the distance of  
the animal's iron us, was the danger we  
had to fear.

For perhaps a minute after the first call  
we heard no answer; and were just begin-  
ning to hope that none would be given, when  
another dismal howl, in a different direction,  
fell upon our ears. This was quickly fol-  
lowed by another and another, and by not  
less than a dozen, on all sides of us, some  
near as to startle our horse which raised his  
head, with a terrified snort, looked timidly  
to the right and left, and then sprang for-  
ward at a gallop.

"Let him go! it may be our only  
chance!" I said to Jules, feeling my hair  
rise with horror.  
"It won't save us!" returned the latter,  
despairingly. "If the beast were free from  
his traces he couldn't outrun these hungry  
devils, which are fast gathering upon us be-  
fore and behind."  
"But as yet they know nothing of us!"  
I said encouragingly, though very far from  
entertaining any such happy belief myself.

"Why, then, look there! and there!"  
cried Jules, pointing with his whip, first to  
the right and then to the left.  
I did look, and a cold sweat seemed to  
start through every pore, as in either direc-  
tion, I perceived an undulating shadow  
moving rapidly over the now star lighted  
snow, at an angle calculated to reach us at  
some unknown point ahead. Almost at the  
same moment, too, I heard some yelps  
behind; and, looking back, I beheld another  
small body of the ferocious animal in the  
road, even nearer to us than the others,  
coming forward like a pack of hounds in full  
chase.

"Merciful God!" I cried; "are we do-  
omed to die in this manner! Faster! Jules  
—faster!—only the horse to his utmost!—it  
is our only chance!"  
"Don't you see he's doing his best, your  
honor? and that he can't gain an inch on  
these devils?"

It was true; our gallant horse, as I might  
call it, was already on a dead run, bound-  
ing us over the frozen snow at a terri-  
fic and dangerous rate. And yet to what  
purpose! Slowly, but steadily, the two un-  
dulating shadows, to the right and left, were  
closing in to the central line; and the yelp-  
ing crew behind had gained on us at once,  
only that the natural cowardice of the brutes  
kept them at a respectful distance while  
their numbers were so comparatively few.

"How far now to Carisbad, Jules?"  
"How far now, sir!"  
"Shall we ever reach it?"  
"Heaven knows! If the horse can hold  
out if the harness don't break, if the cutter  
don't upset, and if the brutes don't attack  
us, there's a chance!"  
"Is there no place on the way where we  
can stop? I no dwelling, barn, stable, or hut,  
that we can take refuge in?"  
"There's a hut about a mile ahead, but  
how are we to get into it? The moment we  
stop, these wolves will be upon us, and thirty  
seconds would be long enough for them to  
tear us to pieces and devour us!"  
"We must put our sole trust in God,  
then!" I groaned.

Suddenly Jules, who had been sitting in  
silence, holding the reins of the running  
horse with the same apparent firmness as if  
driving on a race-course, partly turned his  
head and exclaimed:  
"Quick! quick! your honor—have you  
a strong, sharp knife?"  
"Yes!"  
"Quick, then! in Heaven's name!—quick  
quick!—give it me! give it me!—another  
minute will be too late!"  
I tore off my glove, whirled back the  
skins, furs and outer garments, thrust my  
hand into a pocket and brought forth a long,  
Spanish clasp-knife, which opened with a  
spring.

"Here! Jules—here!"  
He took it, with a deliberation his excited  
words had not led me to expect; and then,  
turning his eyes toward Heaven, said, so-  
lemnly:  
"May God smile upon the design! it  
seems our only hope!"  
"Jules," I cried, with a shudder, catching  
him by the arm, "surely you are not meditat-  
ing self-destruction?"  
"No, no, no, your honor! but a plan to  
save us, both, with God's help! Here—  
quick! take the reins! take the reins!"

I did so mechanically, but amazed and  
mystified. Instantly Jules leaped forward  
over the front of the sleigh, and for a few  
moments seemed hard at work. Then  
starting up suddenly, he cut the reins with  
a single stroke of his knife, and at the same

time struck the flying horse a smart blow  
with his whip. Before I had time to ask  
what all this meant, I comprehended what  
had been done. He had cut the traces, the  
horse was leaving us, and we were running  
by our own momentum.

"It was our only chance," said Jules,  
pointing to the hut just before us, about op-  
posite of which I judged the still fast-mov-  
ing sleigh would stop. "Had we passed  
that, I fear there wouldn't have been any  
hope!"  
"And what hope now?" I cried, in des-  
pair, as I heard the angry wolves all  
around us, and saw their fiery eyes in every  
direction.

"You see!" replied Jules, with a wild,  
hysterical laugh, "you see, don't you? I  
're passing us, to the right and left, in full  
chase of the flying horse, which they'll  
catch and destroy before they'll come back  
for us!"  
It was true, and God be praised it was  
true! They were passing us, to the right  
and left; and in less than half a minute the  
hindmost was ahead of us, and the whole  
yelling pack was in eager chase of the noble  
beast that had done his best to save us.

"Quick, your honor!" he exclaimed;  
"now's our only chance; they'll soon be  
back here; we must get shelter in this hut  
while we can."  
Waiting only to be certain that no pro-  
ver was near us, we gathered up all our  
loose coverings, and ran for our lives to the  
shanty. It was old and untenanted, and  
the front door was fast. This was a terri-  
ble shock to our hopes. We ran to the  
rear door. Gracious Heaven! that was  
fast also.

"We must get in!" I fairly screamed.  
"That window!" said Jules, hurriedly;  
"if I could only reach it!"  
"Here! mount upon my shoulders!"  
He did so; and the next minute he sent  
it in with a crash, and threw his body into  
the aperture. As he shortly disappeared  
inside, leaving me standing without, my  
eyes were assailed with a wild shrieking  
yell, that made my blood curdle. I knew  
what it was—our poor horse was already in  
the clutches of his rapacious foes.

"Quick! Jules—for the love of God!"  
I cried.  
He extended his hands, I seized them,  
and in a few seconds more I was safe inside.  
I knelt down, and thanked God for our  
deliverance from almost certain death, and  
wept for joy.

Two minutes later, the still hungry beasts  
were howling all around us—but we were  
not destined to be their victims.  
The next day we related our wonderful  
adventures to an astonished group in Caris-  
bad.

## COLONIAL LEGISLATURE.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, April 5, (continued)

PETITIONS.  
Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL said, that while  
the petitioners were praying for a reduction  
of the duty on molasses, they had not offered  
any suggestions as to what other article  
they would have it imposed upon. They  
were aware, he presumed, that it was neces-  
sary to have a revenue; and even with the  
present duty on molasses, it would not be  
one farthing more than the public service  
required. Whether they wanted a reduc-  
tion of the grant for roads and bridges, or  
any other branch of the public service, he  
could not say.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL was not surprised at  
a petition of that nature being presented.  
He always thought the extra duty put upon  
molasses last session would be unpopular,  
as the burden would fall upon the poorest  
class of persons. He did not think it was  
the duty of the petitioners to offer any sug-  
gestions respecting the mode of raising a  
revenue; that was the prerogative of the  
Government.

Petitions all ordered to be laid on the  
table.  
Hon. Attorney General, by command of  
His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor,  
presented to the House a copy of the Warrant  
Book for the year 1853.

SPECIE CURRENCY BILL.  
The Bill to amend the Act to regulate  
the Specie Currency of Prince Edward Is-  
land was read a second time, and on a mo-  
tion being made that the House do go into  
committee thereon—

Hon. Mr. McDONALD rose, and address-  
ing the House, said—I shall oppose the  
House going into committee on this Bill,  
for I am of opinion that if it becomes law it  
will be an injury to a large portion of the  
inhabitants of this colony. I happened to  
hear a discussion on it in the other end of  
this building a few days ago, and it was  
thought, by some of the members, that it  
would be an injury to the Bank, but I am  
of a contrary opinion. It will be the means  
of enabling the Bank to put a larger amount  
of notes in circulation, and they would no  
doubt limit the amount of silver which they  
would receive. The greatest injury would,  
in my opinion, result to the small traders.  
If they should happen to get a large amount  
of silver in their hands, it might not be  
taken in from them, and it would not be  
taken in any of the neighboring Colonies,  
except at a very heavy discount.

Hon. Mr. BEEB said he would not oppose  
the House going into committee on the  
Bill, but was not quite prepared to vote  
upon it, and would like to have it deferred  
till a future time.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL: I have no op-  
inion to force the Bill through the House.  
There may be ample time given to consider  
the objections of his honor who has spoken  
against the Bill. I believe that few coun-  
tries, where there are laws regulating the  
currency and banking institutions, are with-  
out laws of this kind. Some of the silver  
notes in circulation in this country has be-  
come depreciated within the last few years,  
and there is rather an influx of it at the  
present time. It is very much depreciated  
in the neighboring colonies, and no doubt  
it will find its way here, where it is a legal  
tender in any amount. An objection has  
been raised that persons who held a large  
amount of silver, and had a payment to  
make at the Bank, would be subjected to  
great inconvenience, because the Bank would

only receive a limited amount; but parties  
holding silver could, with very little trouble,  
buy up Bank Notes, which the latter would  
be obliged to take. There should be some  
protection to capitalists who might come  
here and lay out a large amount of money,  
for if they should afterwards wish to sell  
their property and leave the Island they  
might be forced to take a large and cum-  
bersome amount of silver.

Hon. Mr. LORD: I am sorry that such a  
Bill should have been brought in here, for  
of course it must be shrewd through, and I  
am confident that it will not be a benefit  
to the country. It was brought in to  
benefit the Bank, but to benefit a certain  
individual who went to the Bank last year  
and had to take eight or ten pounds in sil-  
ver. Let any gentleman show me where  
the trading population of this Colony re-  
quires such a Bill. It will not only be an  
injury to the trading population, but also to  
the Banks, particularly if they are run  
up; and are such Bills to be brought in  
merely to please such a person as the  
leader of the Government, who has never  
done anything to benefit the colony scarcely  
to the amount of the value of my spectacles?  
I shall oppose the Bill.

Hon. Mr. WALKER: I shall also oppose  
the Bill, for I do not see any necessity for  
it. Since the present Bank went into op-  
eration, I have had a good deal to do with it,  
and never had reason to complain. The  
Union Bank will soon be in operation, and  
then it is probable that greater accommoda-  
tion will be afforded.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL: I think it is  
a pity to hear such arguments as have been  
made use of by his honor from the first dis-  
cussion of Prince County, (Mr. Lord.) His  
honor should know a little more about the  
laws which regulate specie currency before  
he would use such arguments. And as to  
introducing motives to the member who in-  
troduced the Bill, his honor should know  
that it is very improper to do so. We are  
to scan measures, not the motives of men  
who introduce them. If it were allowed,  
we might have an endless amount of dis-  
cussion on men's motives if we chose to sus-  
pect them. We know that there was a  
great flourish of trumpets in the other end  
of the building, if the reports are correct,  
and it was said that this Bill would injure  
the "poor man;" but I look upon it as a  
great deal of froth, for when these argu-  
ments are addressed to men who understand  
the necessity for Bills of this kind they get  
a very short way to prejudice their minds.  
There is no colony where specie is well re-  
gulated but has a law of this kind. If a  
man came to this Island and laid out 100  
sovereigns, and then wanted to go away, he  
should not be compelled to take a lot of de-  
preciated silver, which he would perhaps  
have to sell by the pound.

Hon. Mr. WALKER: If this Bill were  
passed, which provides that silver shall not  
be a legal tender to any amount over £6, I  
think the Bank would soon be drained of  
gold by parties leaving the Island.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: This is a Govern-  
ment measure, and I have no desire to  
strangle it; but I am afraid it will subject  
parties to great inconvenience who hold sil-  
ver, if their creditors refuse to take it off  
their hands.

Hon. Mr. ANDERSON: The Bank could  
not refuse their own notes; and I do not  
think there would be any difficulty in pro-  
curing them for silver.

The House then went into committee, and  
after a short time spent therein, progress  
was reported, and the House adjourned till  
four o'clock, p. m.

### AFTERNOON SITTING.

Hon. Attorney General, by command, pre-  
sented to the House the Impost Accounts  
for the year 1853-4. Also, the Public  
Accounts for the past year. And also the  
Accounts of the Public Lands Office for the  
year 31st January, 1864.

A Bill to amend the Act "to change the  
constitution of the Legislative Council by  
rendering the same elective" was read a sec-  
ond time, passed through committee, and  
agreed to without any amendment.

A message was brought from the House  
of Assembly by the Hon. Col. Secretary,  
with a Bill to amend the Act to incorporate  
the Bank of Prince Edward Island. Also,  
by the Hon. Mr. Longworth, with a Bill to  
amend the Act to incorporate the Union  
Bank of Prince Edward Island.

The said Bills were severally read a first  
time, and ordered to be read a second time  
to-morrow.

### USURY BILL.

(Committee resumed)

Clause relating to the amount of inter-  
est on Mortgages and Judgments:  
Hon. Mr. ANDERSON: I would rather  
have some particular rate specified, particu-  
larly at the present time, when it is likely  
that a Bill will be passed to enable the  
tenants to purchase the fee simple of their  
farms, and many of them may want to  
borrow money for that purpose. If we pass  
the money bill as it is, it may be said that  
the money lenders are anticipated the wants  
of the country, and that it has been passed  
through their influence. Or it may be said  
that the Government have taken the ten-  
ants out of the hands of the proprietors and  
throw them into the hands of the money-  
lenders.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON: My views are very  
similar to those of his honor who has just  
addressed you. I am not quite satisfied that  
it would be for the benefit of the tenants to  
have no fence in the way with regard to  
giving security on their farms. I feel tender  
on this point, and would like to hear the  
opinions of some of your honours. If we have  
the material to come to a fair conclusion, I  
think it would be better to fix some rate than  
leave it open.

Hon. THE PRESIDENT: The present rate is  
six per cent, and some lend at that rate,  
though others evade the law and take ten or  
fifteen per cent; but if we limit it to eight  
or ten per cent, that will be the rate estab-  
lished by law, and it is very likely that all  
money-lenders will ask that rate. I there-  
fore think it would be better to leave the  
Bill as it is.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: I think we should  
pass before we attempt to legislate a high  
rate of interest. Money-lenders have always  
power enough over the poor man without in-  
creasing their power by Act of Parliament.  
They should be restricted to some rate of in-  
terest. It is no party question, and in all  
cases where men try to grasp more than the  
laws of their country allow them they should  
be restricted. Millers, and almost all classes

of persons, are restricted, and why not re-  
strict money-lenders too?  
Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL: It was observed  
by one of your honours that if we insert a  
clause limiting the rate of interest which  
may be charged on money lent on real estate,  
it might be an inducement to persons to ex-  
act that rate, and I admit that it may have  
that tendency. If, for instance, we say that  
no more than 7½ may be taken, it may be an  
inducement for persons to ask that rate and  
take no less. Yet if it is left altogether  
open, it may act injuriously on persons who  
have already given security on real estate  
at six per cent. Those persons who hold  
mortgages will call them in as soon as they  
become due, for it will then be open to them  
to lend upon a new Act at a higher rate.  
A person holding a mortgage might call  
upon the mortgagee and say you must pay  
me immediately, or otherwise you must  
agree to pay me ten or twelve, or perhaps  
fifteen per cent; if not, I will close the  
mortgage and sell you out. Now, looking at  
the other sides of the question, I am of  
opinion that to fix a rate of interest, even at  
7½ per cent, would be likely to do the least  
amount of injury. I therefore think it would  
be no harm to insert a limitation clause, so that  
no person would be allowed to take more  
than a certain rate, say 7½ per cent, on  
mortgages and judgments. If it is left un-  
limited, respectable, conscientious men would  
not take more than that rate, but others  
would take ten or fifteen per cent, with as  
easy consciences as they would take six  
per cent.

Hon. THE PRESIDENT: I am still of opinion  
that it is better to leave the Bill as it is, for  
if we fix any particular rate, whether it be  
10 or ten per cent, money-lenders will not  
take any less. I have known 20 per cent  
to be charged. I may evade the law now,  
and they would still do so. I would rather  
reject the Bill altogether than legalize any  
higher rate of interest, though I do not see  
why a person who has a few thousand pounds  
to lend should not be allowed to make the  
best bargain he could, just as a merchant is  
allowed to get the best price he can for his  
goods.

Hon. Mr. LORD: I agree with his honor  
the President that it is better to leave the  
Bill as it is. We were not sent here to  
legislate for a certain class of persons who  
have a little money to lend, and we know  
that the rate of interest is not to be fixed  
by the money-lenders. At present, if a  
poor man wants a little money, he can get  
it at six per cent, secured on real estate; but  
it is those money-jobs, who make 15 or  
20 per cent, by shaving money, that we  
should endeavor to restrict. There are  
therefore a large number of mortgages in the  
hands of certain parties, and we are asked  
to increase the rate of interest—to legalize a  
higher rate by law. I know all about it.  
It is true, as his honor the Attorney Gen-  
eral said, if we fix a higher rate, those  
gentlemen who hold mortgages which are  
run out—and I dare say there are some such  
in the reach of my voice—will immedi-  
ately demand a higher rate. Those  
poor people must lift their mortgages or  
agree to pay eight or ten per cent. That is  
the object of the Bill, but I hope the hon-  
orable members will feel for the poor, and  
not allow those money-jobs to grasp and  
tear the poor man to pieces. No! I hope  
this House will not be drawn into sanction-  
ing a measure of this sort.

Hon. Mr. BEEB: I think it would be better  
to limit the rate of interest which might be  
charged for money lent on real estate. In  
England the usury laws are abolished, but  
still five per cent is looked upon as a  
legal rate. In the colonies six per cent is  
the common rate, and I think it is very fair.  
I dare say some of the money-lenders have  
some qualms of conscience at evading the  
laws and taking more than the legal rate.

Hon. Mr. YEO: Men in England make  
their own bargains, and I do not see why  
they should not be allowed to do so here.  
If the usury laws were necessary in England  
they would be abolished in the same time, if  
I do not know who introduced this Bill, but  
similar laws are in force, not only in Eng-  
land, but in many other parts of the world,  
and I do not see why there should be any  
opposition to this measure here.

Hon. Mr. HENRY: The usury laws have  
been abolished in England, it is true, but I  
do not think we should abolish them here  
altogether. I think the money-lenders should  
be restricted in some way. I have known  
some of them to lend £100 and take a note  
for £120 with interest at six per cent, on the  
latter sum. If this Bill becomes law, there  
will be nothing to prevent them from charg-  
ing any rate of interest they please for  
money secured on real estate.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON: I think it would be  
better to let the law remain as it is. I know  
some men who now lend money at six per  
cent, and ask no more than six per cent,  
and I am inclined to think that those men  
would be tempted to ask as much as they  
could legally take. In England the usury  
laws are abolished, but there, money is  
abundant and the demand regulates the  
supply. Few money-lenders there take more  
than four or five per cent, and there is  
not so much danger of exorbitant rates being  
asked as here, where money is scarce. I do  
not wish to put it in the power of the money-  
lenders to take advantage of the tenants,  
for if a law is passed to enable the tenants  
to purchase the fee simple of their farms on  
favorable terms, there will be a greater rate  
to those who lend money than there ever was  
before in the history of this colony.

Hon. THE PRESIDENT: His honor (Mr. Lord)  
said some time ago that we were bound to  
pass this Bill; and I find that it is not a  
Government measure, and so are therefore  
free to pass or reject it as we think proper.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON: I am glad to hear  
that, for it will be seen that we are discuss-  
ing the merits of the Bill and not the merits  
of a party.