CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1852.

Legislative Proceedings.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, Feb. 16, 1852.

MORNING SITTING.

A number of Petitions were presented by Messrs. WIGHTMAN, HAVILAND, and DAVIES, principally relative to Roads and Bridges, all of which were received and read. Some were laid on the Table, others referred to the Committees appointed to report to the House.

SALE OF CROWN LANDS.

The Hon. the SPEAKER laid before the House, an account of the Sale of Crown Lands, received from the Keeper of Plans, which being read,

Hon. Mr. COLES considered the papers were of that important nature, as to require the appointment of a Committee for their examination, and to report thereon; as it seemed, the expenses incurred in the sale of Crown Lands, amounted to nearly half the money for which they sold.

On motion of Mr. FRASER, a Committee was thereupon appointed, in conformity with the motion, consisting of Messrs. Fraser, Thornton, Haviland, Montgomery, and the Hon. Coles.

THE DIOCESAN SOCIETY INCORPORATION BILL, was passed.

STATUTE LABOR.

The Bill sent down from the Council, to amend the Statute Labour Act relative to Charlottetown and its Royalty, was, on motion, read a first time, and its second reading ordered for to-morrow.

TUESDAY, Feb 17, 1851.

MORNING SITTING.

POST OFFICE.

Hon. Mr. POPE called the attention of the House to the Post Office, in respect to its future prospects. From what he had gathered from undoubted authority, the alteration in that office, relative to postage, would cause a great deficiency in its receipts. His Excellency had, last Summer, taken great pains, in correspondence with the Home Government, to try the question fairly and forcibly before them; but, whether it was not understood, or from some other cause, he regretted to say, nothing satisfactory had resulted therefrom. One very important matter connected with this branch of the Public Service, was the grant of £600, paid for the Mails to and from Pictou, during the summer season. This was a large sum, particularly, as the Island did not exclusively enjoy the benefit. The subject, being of great importance, should not be allowed to lie dormant. He would, therefore, move, that a Committee be appointed to solicit the Legislative Council to join the House of Assembly in an Address to Her Majesty on the subject: That Honorables Messrs. Pope, and Coles, and Messrs. Thornton, Davies, Wightman and Clark, were appointed a Committee accordingly.

FISHERY RESERVES.

Mr. FRASER called the attention of the House to the long-pending question of the Fishery Reserves.

Hon. Mr. COLES felt that the time was arrived, when these Reserves should be regulated, and made available for the furtherance of Education, or some other desirable purpose. That they should yield something for the public benefit, had not come upon his mind as a new idea; for he had so thought, ever since he had had the honor of first taking his seat in the Assembly. It was high time, the Reserves, so long usurped by the proprietors, should be placed under the more legitimate power of the Government, by whom they would be made available for the interests of the Island. A report had been propagated—no doubt by interested parties—that the Proprietors were determined to hold on to their ill-gotten possession; but such reports he heeded not. The Government had granted licenses to all who had applied for grants of spots on the Reserves to carry on fishing. The Proprietors had not taken any steps to interfere with the parties in possession, nor did he imagine, that they would. He was glad to see the question brought forward by an honorable member unconnected with the Government.

Mr. DAVIES generally agreed with honorable members' remarks; a revenue ought long ago to have been derived from the Fishery Reserves; but he could not participate in the satisfaction of the honorable member, in respect to its being introduced by one who was not a member of the Government. On the other hand, he not only thought, that it no doubt had been brought forward by the Government, but was, in fact, disappointed that it had not.

Hon. Mr. POPE said, there was no question but that the Government was perfectly sincere in the Fishery Reserves, but they would not forget the many local interests mixed up therewith; and it was their wish, and would be their aim, to have justice administered to each. Licenses had been granted to different persons, to occupy parts of the Fishery Reserves for the purpose originally intended; and the proprietors have, in consequence, had an opportunity afforded them, to try the question. He (Mr. Pope) was of opinion, that, at the present day, very few would stand up and say, that the Proprietors had now, or had had, at any time, any legitimate right to the possession or profit of these Reserves. It ought not to be made a party question; and therefore, no sound reason existed why it should have been brought forward rather by a member of the Government, than by any other member of the House. His opinions on this subject, were well known: one of which was, that where the tenants had paid rents to the proprietors, they (the tenants) ought to attorn to the Government. The tenants would not be injured by the licensed parties, in respect to their growing crops, injury to their fences or the like. Government would look to their interests, and take care that nothing of the kind happened. Equity would not be departed from, but justice to all would be strictly adjudged and adhered to. The Government, he was happy to say, were fully determined to apportion to all parties applying for parcels of the Reserves who had a *bona fide* intention to carry on the pursuit of fishing; and to do all that in them lay to encourage the enterprise.

Mr. THORNTON was aware, that the honorable member who moved on this question, was not strictly a Member of the Government, but saw very little difference; for he must be considered a pillar of it. He (Mr. Thornton) was, however, impressed with the idea, that if one measure, more than another, should be taken up by the Government, it was this very question, which, in his opinion, was of equal, if not more, importance than several others introduced by them. The question had been long pending, and he was disappointed, that the Government had not taken it up and relied upon the House for aid to carry it to a satisfactory issue.

Mr. DAVIES never had a doubt, but that Proprietors held the Reserves illegally. The profit they had made of them by sale and rents paid by the Tenants, ought to have gone into the Treasury, and was nothing short of a downright robbery of the public's rights. He had not the least particle of doubt about the power of the Government: it was their duty to use that power, and thereby put an end to any further interference with the Reserves by the Proprietors.

Mr. CLARK entertained the same views as the honorable member for Murray Harbour (Mr. Davies), and would further remind the Government, that the Country had long looked for an adjustment of the question. He hardly knew, what could be done with those that had paid their money, and become Freeholders; but regulations for those holding by lease should be determined on. Had the Government taken up the question themselves, he would have been better pleased; and he was persuaded that scarcely a dissenting voice would be found against the Proprietors.

Mr. MOONEY did not approve of this all-important question being under the auspices of a private member. It would not carry the same weight with it, as if it came from the Government: the Home Government would only laugh at it. He thought, from the state in which the question was left last Session, that every thing would be ready for the prosecuting of due enquiry this. All seemed to agree that the Proprietors had no right now, nor ever had, to the possession of the Reserves. Why not then take it from them? It might be said, they had had it for a number of years; but if a man had stolen a horse a long time ago, it would still be a stolen horse. He (Mr. Mooney) was for having dispatch on the question, for when it got to the other end, excuses might be offered, that the question was of such vast importance, and required so much deliberation, and the Session being nearly at a close, that they could not then take it up with propriety, and so the go-by might be given to it. The consequence would be, that it would lie over till another Session, and be no further advanced than it was. Let the people, said the honorable member, at length have their rights so long withheld from them.

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON could assure the House, that the question—one of paramount importance, as compared with many others—would not be shirked by the Government. If he might be allowed to use the expression, the right of the Government to the soil would not be lost sight of: they would not fail to take care that the interests of the public Revenue should be looked after with just regard and unwavering determination. There was now, he was pleased and proud to say, every prospect that the Fisheries would be carried on to an extent hitherto unattempted. That prospect although not immediate, would tend to make the Reserves valuable for the purposes connected with their prosecution. He (Mr. Warburton) was most sanguine that it would take place, deriving, as he did, his information from undoubted authority. Of one thing, he must remind the House: the Civil List Bill of this Session, required to be assented to at home: when this was done, as he had no doubt it would, then the Government would see their way quite clearly.

Mr. PALMER did not see, that it was of much consequence how the question was brought before the House. It had always been a difficult one to deal with. If it had been taken up by the Government, he could not perceive, that it would have rendered it less difficult to deal with the many interests which were mixed up in the question. There were no less than three distinct rights claimed: in the first place, those of the Fishermen; in the second, those of the Proprietors; and in the third, those of the Tenants. Hundreds of the latter had been in possession for a long time; and, perhaps, the Reserves could be put to no better purpose; and many of them, in situations, which made it very improbable that they would ever be wanted for the purposes of the Fisheries. He remembered, he having heard some one say, that the Fishermen might make a profit by marsh-hay. Surely, Sir, the Tenantry had more right to that than Fishermen. He (Mr. Palmer) thought the usual way of proceeding, ought to be followed, that of going into Committee, then Resolutions could be framed, submitted and discussed.

Mr. WIGHTMAN. He would go with the Government as far as the situations were adapted for Fishing Stations; but some were of opinion, that the Reserve extended even up the Bays, and as far as the Survey of Captain Bayfield went; but that, he thought, should not be the guide in determining their extent. When the question of Fishery Reserves was introduced, when he was a member of a former House, some ten or twelve years ago, he was a strong advocate for its introduction, and he was as ready as then to support it, if introduced in this way, that the present occupiers should not be disturbed, or that they should be sufficiently recompensed for their labour in improving the fronts of their farms. It would be a hard case, to permit a malicious or evil designing person to attempt to disturb the person in present possession, without some means should be provided to recompense him, and protect him from such encroachment. The freeholder ought not to be disturbed, and, when the Tenant rented on a lease, he treated the measure would be so guarded, as to protect him sufficiently. He had always been of the belief, that if suitable locations could be found, for establishments such as were carried on in Newfoundland, it might induce men of capital to locate amongst us, and stimulate and encourage the natives of this Country to carry on so enterprising an undertaking, and be the means of consuming the growth and productions of the Island, in place of sending it to other countries where it was almost sacrificed, from parties, combining to give such prices as suited themselves. He would go with the Government.

Hon. Mr. COLES said, it could no longer be doubted, to which side of the House the honorable member belonged. The former Government would not grant licences to any applicants: the present had refused none; and that, he thought, was as much as could be expected in the present state of things. The Tenantry would be protected; their interests would be protected to the utmost by the Government. He (Mr. Coles) no doubt, but that the Civil List Bill would receive the Royal Assent; but that must take place, before the question could be finally determined and set at rest. The Government knew their responsibility, and would not flinch from doing their duty. He had written upon the question mooted this Session in which they had not had the chief hand; but it seemed that some honorable members thought, they ought to try impossibilities.

Mr. THORNTON wished that something should be determined; for, from what was going on, it might be supposed the House had resolved itself into a Committee, and were debating on the whole question, instead of being engaged in considering what action should be taken. One said one thing and another another.

Hon. Mr. POPE observed, that as there were so many conflicting opinions concerning the question, he would propose, that the subject should be discussed in Committee of the whole House. If it was the wish of the House, that the Government should take up the question, he would introduce a Bill; but he thought, he could anticipate some honorable members opinions, that it was going into extreme measures. If such were the fact, he could, however, assure them, that the attempt would fail.

Mr. FRASER would not oppose the wishes of the House. He was aware that every one should have a chance of expressing his opinion.

Mr. DAVIES was really vexed and disappointed at the pretence put forth, that the Civil List Bill stood in the way of a final adjustment of the question. What more power it would give the Government than they possessed, he was at a loss to understand. Had not the Crown given them ample power already?

Mr. DOUSE could plainly see that the Government wanted to throw the responsibility upon the shoulders of others. If they were serious, why did they not come forward with a undisguised and manly way. He approved of what had fallen from his hon. colleague. It was the Government alone, that ought to grapple with the question; instead of endeavouring by a side wind to throw the onus upon others. They talked about throwing open the Reserves, and, if they did, they could not interfere with the Tenant. He (Mr. Douse) verily believed, if they could do this, the Proprietors would not care much about it; but they would like to see a good use made of the property. Now, that Responsible Government was established, he would like to see what was to come from the Responsible Party. Any thing they had already done, the promise on the question, was not worth a penny at present. It was nothing less than a farce, and much resembled the tale of the Irishman who wished to make large bequests in his Will, when in reality he had nothing to leave.

Hon. Mr. COLES ironically observed, that if the honorable member thought, Lord Selkirk again wanted to revive the agitation of the Land Question, he had better come forward. Hints, not to be mistaken, had been thrown out, that (he Mr. Coles) and his friends had promised the Tenantry free leases; but he defied the honorable member or produce a single living witness, who could verify his assertion.

Mr. DOUSE had never said, that Escheat was now sought: on the other hand, he believed, they knew it was all smoke. But he would say, that free land was promised (Yes, reached Mr. Coles but it was upon the condition of purchase.) Well then, let them come forward and purchase. He (Mr. Douse) would enter into a treaty to sell 20,000 acres; but he could pretty well perceive that there was something behind the scenes; and he regretted to say, that the Tenantry had been so far deceived, that they were keeping back their rents; and in consequence, might have to lose their farms.

Mr. DAVIES said, if the honorable member pointed him, as having promised free lands to his supporters in the District, which he had the honor to represent, he must deny the accusation in toto.

Several honorable members offered a few other remarks, when Mr. FRASER moved, That the House go into a Committee of the whole, on the Fishery Reserves Question, on Fridayxxt; and this motion having been agreed to, the honorable member further moved, "That there be a call of the House for that day; which was also agreed to.

During the morning divers Petitions were presented, by the Hon. Mr. Coles; Messrs. Clark, Mooney, and Beaton; which were all received and read, and referred to the several Committee appointed to report on the matters to which they referred.

TUESDAY 17.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, APPOINTED TO REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Mr. HAVILAND in the Chair.

The Report, as follows, was read by the Chairman.

(Report.)

Your Committee appointed just session, to enquire into the expediency of establishing a system of Free Education throughout the Island, have to report—that they find the present system of Education, although little supported by Legislative grants in aid of the salaries of Teachers, does not stimulate the inhabitants to that increased solicitude, and consequent efforts to educate their children, a measure which is of such vital importance to the well-being of every country, and particularly so to the inhabitants of this colony.

Your Committee find that during a series of years different modes have been adopted to encourage good and efficient Teachers to impart instruction in the several districts, but they are of opinion that unless Schoolmasters' salaries are wholly paid by the Government, and a system of Free Education established, many settlements will not be able to reap the benefits of Education for the rising generation, under the present system, for they find that in the year 1844 there were 126 Public Seminaries imparting instruction to 5040 pupils, while in 1850, there were only 130 schools, including Primary and Infant Schools, with 4347 pupils; showing a decrease of pupils, while during that period, the increase of children, under 16 years of age was about 7000; although the Legislative allowance had been increased from the year 1843, to 1850, from £249 18s. to £2068 17 1½; but as the present law allows two-thirds of the district to assess the remainder for the support of the teacher, in consequence of the public grants, litigation in many instances, has been the result; and in many case parties have paid the assessment and kept their children at home, and frequently many are summoned to the Small Debts Court for the amount assessed.—Your Committee likewise find, that on an average, there ought to be from 8,000 to 10,000 children attending school, yet it is lamentable to reflect, that not more than half that number are receiving regular instruction.

In view of the foregoing data, your Committee would therefore recommend that a Bill be passed, providing means to establish schools on the free system throughout the Island, and a tax of one half-penny per acre, be imposed on all lands in addition to the present land assessment, and eight-pence each on the pasture lots in Charlottetown Royalty and Georgetown, as well as on all Shops, Dwellings, Houses, &c., throughout the Island, where there is not a certain number of Acres of land attached thereto, and the remainder to be taken out of the general Revenue of the Island; that one Visitor be appointed to superintend the Schools, who shall not have any other occupation, and that one member be added to the Board of Education from Prince and King's Counties, and that an extra allowance be given to the masters of the higher class, for every pupil whom the School Visitor will certify has been taught, not exceeding ten shillings per scholar, until his salary amounts to £60 per annum, and that encouragement be given to Female teachers for such Districts as would prefer them.—Your Committee have examined 50 petitions in favor of the free system, bearing 1700 signatures, two conditional signed by 139 individuals, and three against the scheme with 200 signatures, all presented to the House in the present session, and although some of them in favor differ in the detail, yet all approve of the free system.—With reference to the few against it, the parties seem to be under an impression, that a tax of twenty or thirty shillings per 100 acres would be levied for the support of schools, and should that be the case, they would prefer the present system; but your Committee are satisfied that when they are made aware that it is not contemplated to tax the land to a higher amount than four shillings and two-pence per hundred acres, in addition to the present land tax, scarcely an individual will be found to oppose the principle.

(Signed,) GEORGE COLES,
JOSEPH POPE,
JOHN JARVIS,
DONALD BEATON,
W. E. CLARK,
T. DESBRISAY,
T. HEATH HAVILAND,
ALLAN FRASER.

The first paragraph was agreed to without opposition.

The second paragraph was read, when

Mr. DOUSE rose and said, he could not see, that the proposed means would be adequate to effecting the object in contemplation; and, even if that were otherwise, if the necessary means could be raised by the taxation mentioned, it would be a very objectionable principle. He could not see, that it would be fair to levy a greater tax upon uncultivated than cultivated lands for the purpose of education: the improved should be placed on the same footing as the other. He (Mr. Douse) could not see, however, that by the means adverted to in the Report, the number of any number of schools could be provided. The people, he believed, expected, that the new scheme would give them as many schools as they have a present; but, by no calculation which he could make, could he see that any such number could be provided for by that contemplated means: in fact, it appeared to him, that they could not afford more than one to each Township. But independently of the consideration of the insufficiency of the means, he was not satisfied with the manner in which it appeared the scheme was to be carried into effect. The House was required to authorize the Government to take whatever sum they might please out of the Public Purse, and to apply it as they might please, by sending into the country, as teachers, whomsoever they might choose, and placing them just as they might think fit. He should at all times be glad to see talents well employed and well rewarded, and particularly as regarded the educators of youth: but the additional means contemplated by the Report would be found quite insufficient to provide suitable salaries for a proper number of duly qualified and truly respectable teachers. And, were the generality of the present teachers to be retained under the operation of the new system, whatever amount of provision might be made for them, whether more or less, it would be an imposition upon the country. In the District which he represented, there were only two or three schoolmasters worthy of the name. He would gladly see a superior class of teachers given to the country, and an adequate and respectable provision made for their support. But to talk of making such a provision by taxation of the lands was ridiculous. They all knew that there were due to the Government, by the people, thousands of pounds which they were unable to pay; and that, besides, they could not pay their rents, or even the present land-tax. How then could they be expected to pay an additional tax for education? But besides the inability of the people, there was, he expected, be found another obstacle in the way. Should the Legislature agree to give effect to the proposed scheme, he strongly inclined to believe, that the Proprietors would step in, and endeavor to prevent its going into operation. The scheme was calculated injuriously to affect their interests. They would regard it as an infringement of the rights of their property; and would, therefore have a good right to interfere. He certainly would like to see good teachers given to the country, even although it should be only one to each Township; but, unless they could provide larger salaries than £60 a year, men of truly respectable character would not be attracted, nor would they consent to accept of the appointments. How could it be expected, that a man could support himself a wife, and family, in any degree of comfort and respectability upon £60 a year? The qualification of a Schoolmaster should be next to that of a clergyman, and his influence, in his district, should be in character and extent, similar to that of a minister of the gospel; but, where sufficiently liberal salaries were not provided, men of such character would never be the men, truly worthy of respect, and capable of effecting a beneficial influence, would not take upon them the duties of schoolmasters. The salary of an efficient Schoolmaster should be at least £100 a year: and if one such teacher were given to each Township, the arrangement would effect a great amount of good; for not only might it be expected, that they who should be taught by him would become duly qualified to occupy respectable positions in society, but the example of such teachers would stimulate those of inferior qualifications, to study and make themselves equally useful and respectable. The hon. member concluded, by saying that, according to his calculations, a tax of 20s. the 100 acres would not be sufficient fully to carry out the scheme of free education; and unless they could carry it out, it would be better to leave things as they are.

Hon. Mr. COLES. The hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Douse) had allowed the eleven foot to appear at once. The people cannot pay their rents; and, therefore the taxation scheme will never answer, was the sum and substance of the hon. member's objections to the recommendations contained in the Report. But he (Mr. C.) would reply to the hon. member, that the proposed scheme, if carried into operation, would, instead of increasing the burthens of the country, rather help them to make provision for the payment of their rents; for, where a tenant had, under the present school system, to pay 50s. a year for the schooling of two of his children, he would, under the new one, be able to have all his children educated for 4s. 2d. per annum. The hon. member (Mr. C.) then proceeded briefly to review what had been done with a view to the introduction of the Free Educational system, since it was first mooted by him in the House about the close of the last session. On his suggestion, a Committee of twelve members was appointed to report, next session, on the feasibility of Free Education. During the summer and winter he had himself paid great attention to the question. The difficulties in the way of the improvement which he so much desired, seemed to him at first insurmountable; but, he persevered in his investigation of the question; and, at length, found to his great satisfaction, calculations, that no scheme which had ever been proposed, with reference to the question, had been more feasible than his favorite one of Free Education: and he had the satisfaction to find, that there were within reach means for the establishing of such an educational system, as was calculated to be a blessing to the Colony, and a lasting credit to the Government and the Legislature which should carry it into effect. Should it be established, as he doubted not it would, Prince Edward Island would be the first place in the British dominions, in which a complete system of Free Education was established. It was very true that in England there were many free schools, but they were made so only by the donations of the rich. In the United States too, the benefits of education were almost universally diffused; but the system which generally prevailed there was that of assessment; the principle of which was recognised here and in operation, under the present School Act, which provides that two-thirds of the inhabitants of a District shall have power to tax the remaining one-third, in aid of a school. But what he (Mr. C.) wished to carry, was a provision which, of itself, would be sufficient for the support of the schools, independently of any further tax upon the people. According to his plan, as soon as a certain number of scholars should be enrolled, a school house built and furnished, and a master chosen; all that would be further required, would be that such master should procure a license from the Board of Education, and the school would then, at once, go into operation, and the master would be entitled to draw the whole of his salary from the Treasury as it should become due. The hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Douse) had asserted what was not correct, in saying that the Government wished to have the appointment of the schoolmasters; for neither had the individual with whom the scheme may be said to have originated, nor the Government, ever contemplated their being invested with power to exercise any such patronage. No! from the first, it was intended that the people should have the power to elect their own schoolmasters. Some time since the District Teachers had, with very great propriety, held a private meeting for the purpose of considering the new scheme, prompted by a regard for their own interests and those of education; and, on that occasion, they appointed a gentleman to wait upon him and request his attendance, to the end, that not only might he explain his scheme to them, but that he might be made acquainted with their views of the question. He attended accordingly, and had the satisfaction to hear many judicious observations touching the scheme, and carrying out the measure. It appeared, that a majority of the Teachers present at the meeting were desirous that the Government should have the appointment of the Teachers, being of opinion that their being so appointed would give them a higher standing than they would otherwise obtain. To their suggestion, however, he replied that, so far as he was concerned, he would oppose such a proposal, for he thought it would be improper to bestow such power of patronage upon any Government; and after some further consideration and discussion of that particular question, they all appeared to take the same view of it that he did. The Resolutions, he hoped, would satisfy the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Douse), that the Government had no wish to control the choice of the people with respect to the teachers. That hon. member (Mr. Douse) appeared to think, that but few of the District teachers at present employed, were so well qualified to discharge the duties of their profession as they ought to be. To his objection, on that score, he (Mr. Coles) would reply that the present School Act, in making a larger provision for teachers who should be licensed under it, allowed those who were licensed under the previous Act, and who were entitled to draw only £10 a year from the Treasury, an opportunity to qualify for the higher allowance, and many of them accordingly did so. Under the new system, he did not suppose that, they who had qualified under the present Act, would be required to present themselves to the Board of Education to be examined again; but it was not intended that such Teachers as at present were entitled to no more than £10 a year, should be held eligible to appointments under the new system, unless they should qualify under it; and, he hoped, they would, in his own view was, that they should have the privilege of attending the Academy, as a Normal School, and an allowance be made to them, to enable them to pay for their board during the time of their attendance therein. The hon. member then proceeded, to show that the contemplated means would enable the Legislature to make a fair annual provision for 150 Teachers; and, in detail, he stated, first, how the money was to be secured: thus;

Present Land Assessment,	£2,500
Rent of Warren Farm,	27
Additional Land Tax,	2,900
Charlottetown and Royalty,	500
Dwellings in the Country,	50
Georgetown,	30
	6,007
From the General Revenue,	3,000
	£9,007

They might very well afford to take the sum of £9,000 annually from the Revenue for so great and important an object. They very often squandered away hundreds after hundreds for objects of comparatively very little moment, but let them, in future, with regard to such, hold their hands, whilst having that great object to provide for. There was at least 10,000 children in the Island who ought to be attending school; but, according to the reports of the School Visitors, there were not more than 4,000 doing so; and since 1844, the number attending school, notwithstanding the increase in population, had been diminishing. This was humiliating to think of. The present system of assessment was a very objectionable one, and very productive of disputes and litigation. It was well known, that many, although they had the means, neither paid nor sent their children to the school for which it was levied. The assessment in many places amounted to 30s. or 40s., upon individuals who were unable to pay it, but who were stood for it, as he himself knew, had their only cow taken for it; the assessment, with expenses of suit, amounting to £4 or £5. The hon. member (Mr. Douse) had said, it would not be fair to levy a heavier tax upon uncultivated than cultivated lands. But no such thing was contemplated by the Legislation