ed in England for that sum I know, for I heard of it while there myself. Notwithstanding this, the late Government paid a much larger sum for it—nearly £25,000—and appeared to jump at the offer.

Hon. Mr. COLES—The purchase of the Worrell Estate is open to no more suspicion than that of the Selkirk Estate; the hon. member and his friends may have pocketed £1000 by that transaction, for we know that there was a great deal of secret correspondence with the Earl of Selkirk in reference to his estate. I think the supporters of the Government need scarcely bring forward this charge against me, as it is quite evident that the vendors of the Worrell Estate would only have been too well pleased to circulate such a report, had it been true. I never thought that the hon. member would be a party to spread so base and false a statement; but perhaps for party purposes, he may forget that honor and integrity for which he generally receives credit.

Mr. DAVIES—I did not make a charge; I only said there was room for strong suspicion. And as to the vendors circulating the report, it is well known that if the £1000 was received they were parties to it, and would only be too glad to remain silent on the subject.

After a few remarks from one or two other hon. members the paragraph was agreed to. So also was the 6th.

On the 7th, which relates to the Award of the Land Commissioners, being read—

Hon. Mr. COLES said—Mr. Chairman, this famous Award is a long time in coming to light. We were told, when the resolutions for a Commission were introduced, that the Land Question would be settled in 8 months, and that the country, through the Commission, would receive greater benefits than were ever obtained under the Land Purchase Act. Now, Sir, it is well on to 9 months since the Commissioners completed their Award, and forwarded it to the Colonial Office; yet his Excellency states—and it is not a little surprising—that he has received no communication from the Duke of Newcastle on the subject. From this it appears that he has not even had intimation whether the Award has been received at home. This is certainly strange conduct towards the Government here, and that a Government too which boasts of its influence at the Colonial Office. But, Sir, I think it shows some want of management on the part of the Government. What have they done to promote their own scheme?—this measure which has caused more trouble, anxiety, sueing, distress and suffering than any other which has ever been brought forward in the Colony—this Commission which was to settle the Land Question, Escheat, Quit Rents, and the Fishery Reserves. The Commissioners met in New Brunswick last spring and completed their Award; and I believe the Government or Governor were offered a copy of it, but declined, stating that it was better it should go the round of the Colonial Office. The very words used by Mr. Howe, when he came to the Island last summer, were, "that if the Award was not here it ought to have been here." And there is another report to the effect that the Government have been a little penurious in regard to the Commission. They have, I understand, refused to pay certain expenses, such as that of clerks, saying that they had a right to pay only one third; and perhaps an account of this went home, which may be the reason that the Award is not forthcoming, as the Duke of Newcastle might say, "let them want it until they choose to pay for it." Now, it was mean on the part of the Government to refuse to pay a paltry account of £50 or so for clerks; and I cannot say whether they have paid the Spy or not, but the detailed accounts, when laid before us, will show. I contend it was mean to employ a person to go through the country and endeavour to collect information to prove that every man who came before the Commission was a liar, for I cannot call it by a more moderate term. Now the presence of this person on the Island must have been known to the members of the Government.

Hon. Mr. POPE—No.

Hon. Mr. COLES—Well, a member of the Government has admitted that his mission was known to His Excellency and one of the members of the Government, who, I suppose, was the leader. Besides, this Mr. Wightman had the use of an office in this building, and had a letter from a high officer to the different public offices to furnish him with such information as he desired. This was great liberty to receive without the sanction of the Government. Now, Sir, this Spy went round the country gulling the people by talking about building railways and establishing fisheries. He carried with him a list of those parties who appeared before the Commission, and would call on them, and converse with them about some great project of a railway passing that way, such, for example, as he did with a person out about the Ten Mile House, saying "that there must be a railway from St. Peter's to Charlottetown, and we must have a station here, as we cannot have it upon that hill; now, Sir, what will you take for your farm?" The person, with all this prospect before him, thought that he ought to have a good price for his property, and accordingly set a high value upon it. Mr. Wightman then asked if he appeared before the Commission; the person answered, yes, and away went the Spy. I believe that in Bedeque he created quite a sensation, and the great topic of discussion was where the railway would pass. Now, Sir, all this was a most disgraceful piece of deception, and the person who practised it ought almost to have been gibbeted. It is said that up about Mill River the people hung the effigy of Mr. Howe, and burned him afterwards, and threw the ashes into the river. The only person, I believe, who looked on with pity, was a poor Frenchman that tried to save his coat; but the others shouted out, no, no, burn him all! An effort was made in Town to throw the blame of this transaction on the people of Mill Vale; I, however, inquired into the matter, and found that the deed was done by the supporters of the Government—the Tories of New London, who tried to throw the blame of the failure of the Commission on Mr. Howe, instead of on the Government.

Mr. MONTGOMERY—This is the first time I have heard who took a part in that shameful affair. I could never ascertain who the parties were, but it appears there was a Frenchman among the number.

Hon. Mr. COLES—The Frenchman, however, seems to have been inclined to spare him. Sir, the supporters of the Government need not complain of the Award, for it goes at least as far as the resolutions of the majority of this House. I made a remark to Mr. Howe to the effect that the Award was unfavourable to the tenantry; and his reply was, "did you ever hear of an arbitration granting more than any of the parties asked for?" I inquired what he meant; he answered, "we have given you all that the resolutions of the House asked for, and a little more; so you cannot complain of us." The manner in which the Award disposes of the Fishery Reserves must work injuriously in many cases. A person can go and ask for an acre of land anywhere on the reserves, and it must be given him. Even at Summerside, suppose a person were to ask an owner of land there for half an acre, and he were to reply, oh, I cannot let you have it; the person applying might say, but you must as I want it for fishing purposes—appoint your arbitrator. I only allude to this to show that there is more occasion for an outcry now than existed a year or two ago when the late Government thought to settle the question of the reserves. In further evidence than the resolutions of this House, that the Award is as favorable to the tenantry as the Government desired, I have out to refer to the statement of one of its members before the Commission that the people were able to pay 18 or 19 years' purchase—but if my memory serves me right he said 20,—however, take his own statement, 18 or 19 years' purchase, and that too in the face of a lamentable case which was before the Court on the previous evening. He said the people could generally pay 18 or 19 years' purchase, but there were exceptional cases such as the one we had last evening. Now, I do not believe that there are ten such cases in the Island.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—I am astonished at the hon. member making his perversion. The report of my remarks will speak for itself. I appeal to this House if my statements before the Commission were not as favorable to the tenantry as those of any individual who appeared before it.

Hon. Mr. COLES—This statement that the people were generally able to pay 18 or 19 years' purchase, had great weight with the Commissioners. I observed that Commissioner Ritchie appeared quite satisfied, and said I understand you are a member of the Government, a member of the Legislature, and a native of the Island. The Award will be very little benefit to the tenantry, as bonds and warrants have been taken from many of them for arrears; and Mr. Howe said that the Commissioners had no power to interfere with such. When a bond or warrant is given the tenant's property can be taken away, and sold without almost any notice. Such a case occurred here the other day, when a tenant's horse and cow was sold for a trifle. It is the delay in reference to the Award that I principally complain of, for it is giving time to the proprietors to distrain for arrears, and take bonds which can be collected at any time. By the resolutions of the hon. member for Belfast, the tenant was to pay the instalment money before the rent would cease. This is not equal to the Land Purchase Act, under which the Worrell and Selkirk Estates were bought, and the tenants thereon were forgiven all their arrears, and freed from paying rent as soon as the first instalment was paid. Besides, if the tenant cannot get the proprietor to sell, he has to go to law with him, for it amounts to that by the arbitration clause. This Award, in my opinion, instead of doing away with the proprietary system will only perpetuate it. The supporters of the Government maintain that the Award will do good; well, let them have it. All I say is, that it is not what the people were led to expect. I hear, however, that the members of the Government have been going round the country and repudiating a part of the Award—the clause relating to the loan. I have attended no meetings except one or two in my own district to receive instructions in respect to the report of the Commissioners. The friends of the Government, I believe, are circulating that the Liberals have united their influence with the proprietors to overthrow the Award. I defy them to prove that any Liberal has ever written a line to the Colonial Office on the subject. The Award, by the resolutions of the hon. member Col. Gray, was intended to settle the difficulties between landlord and tenant, but the proprietors were not satisfied with that; they desired the subjects of escheat, quit rents, fishery reserves, and the loyalist question to be included. The loyalists, by the report of the Commissioners, are to receive compensation, but out of the Crown Lands that may be in the possession of the Government. This I consider unjust; the compensation should be from the proprietors and not from the Government. Those men who left their houses and lands and all on account of their fidelity to the British Crown, and came here on a promise from the proprietors that they should receive land, have been shamefully treated. The land, indeed, was divided and drawn for; some few obtained possession of what was allotted to them, but the most of them received none at all. They sought redress, but were denied their rights; at length, however, a law was passed to give them justice, but this was frustrated. These loyalists or their representatives came before the Commissioners, who have taken up their case and decided that they should receive compensation from the Government, which is very unfair, as the people of the Island have no right to pay for the delinquencies of the proprietors. In reference to the quit rents, it appears that there is a certain amount due by the proprietors, but the Government not having urged the claim, nay more, having allowed their Colonial Secretary to go before the Commissioners, and with such documents as he had at his command, endeavour to prove that all had been remitted; and they seem to have taken his view of the matter. The Island, by the Award, has lost not only in the matter of the amount that might be brought in by fishery reserves and quit rents, but also in regard to the price of land. A certain proprietor at home wrote to his agent here some years ago, whether it was probable that the quit rents would ever be demanded. He appeared to be quite alarmed about them. My plan was to make no compromise with the proprietors, but buy out their claims. I dare say, however, that we shall be told before this discussion is over, that the Award will do wonders—that the arbitration clause will bring the matter all right. It has been advocated in regard to this clause that it will operate against the landlords; and if there is any difficulty likely to arise about the appointment of the third arbitrator, the Legislature may pass a law to obviate anything of the kind. Now, Sir, if arbitration is resorted to, it must be conducted in the usual way; and I am surprised that any member of the Legislature should advocate that that body could interfere by imposing any restrictions in regard to the third party. Had the question been left as it was, I believe land could be purchased at a lower rate than it will be obtained under the Award. Sir, I am in favour of purchasing the land, and not going to escheat or anything of the kind. (Laughter.) Hon. members may laugh, but I am not in favour of such doubtful measures as escheat. I think if, through the operation of the award, land can be obtained at 15 years' purchase, it will be a benefit, but if higher than this, I consider it will be better for the people to continue paying rent. I can scarcely think the award will be allowed to do away with the fishery reserves. I never considered that the Commission was to interfere in regard to them; in my opinion it would be rather a dangerous matter for the Crown law officers to advise that they should be broken up. I shall not say much more on this subject at present, because if the award comes—which I think is very doubtful—it will have to be taken up again. All I regret is that the measure which we proposed last session was not carried out. It was in accordance with the recommendation of the Commissioners, who seemed to be sorry that they had not the power to prevent the collection of arrears of rent, and also in accordance with the despatch of the Duke of Newcastle. Had this measure been passed, instead of the famous address to His Excellency moved by the hon. member for Tryon, to which I believe he received a favorable answer, the people would have been saved a great deal of harassing and vexation. I was applied to by several tenants, who were being proceeded against, and I advised them to wait on His Excellency. I understand, whatever he may have said to the Chairman of the Committee who waited on him with the address, he informed the parties who applied to him, that he could not interfere between landlord and tenant. It required something more than a mere recommendation to prevent not a few of the proprietors from distraining. Several of them have pressed very hard upon their tenants during the past season. Such an Act as we desired to pass, it was objected, would be unconstitutional; I am, however, convinced that a short Act would have received the Royal assent. I dare say there are decisions in the award, quite as unconstitutional. If this famous document comes, it will have to be confirmed by an Act of the Legislature, and this Act may be kept back by a certain officer for five months, as was the case with another, before it is sent to the Colonial Office; so that by the time it returns, and the award becomes binding it will be of very little service to the tenants, as the proprietors will have had time to secure all the arrears. I shall move an amendment to the paragraph of the Address under consideration, and it is this:—

"We are surprised, and regret to learn that your Excellency has not yet received any communication from Her Majesty's Government respecting the report of the Royal Commission appointed to settle the Land Question, which report, we understand was transmitted to Her Majesty's Colonial Minister in the summer of last year. A question in which the people of this Island feel so much anxiety, will receive our best consideration when your Excellency may be enabled to communicate to us, Her Majesty's commands in reference to it."

Hon. Mr. YEO—The hon. member referred to some of the tenants being distrained upon. He knows very well what it proceeded from. The Commissioners advised the tenants to pay one year's rent, and I verily believe that every one who did so was not disturbed. But persons went round the country and persuaded the people to pay none; and because they would not pay any rent they were distrained upon.

Hon Mr. COLES—I showed last year that several who paid their year's rent were distrained upon for arrears.

Hon. Mr. YEO—Well it may have been in a few cases; but if so, I think it must have happened by a mistake on the books, or something of the kind. I know that on a certain proprietor's estate, the people were threatened, and some of them came to me. I told them to pay their one year's rent and I did not think he would interfere with them. I believe the most of them have done so, and have not been disturbed. What good is all this talk about the Commission going to do? The House can do nothing in the matter while the Award is not before them. About the Fishery Reserves, this is something worth talking about certainly. And as to the loyalists, how can the Government help it if the Commissioners have decided they should receive compensation out of the Crown Lands? It is a shame to take up the time of the House discussing this question, as was done last year, at a cost to the country of some hundreds of pounds.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—Mr. Chairman, I did not expect this subject to come up this afternoon, or I would have been earlier in my place; nor I think did the hon. leader of the Government in this branch of the Legislature, or he would have been present, though the elements have not been very auspicious. The question of the Award has been opened up at great length, indeed; and the hon. leader of the Opposition has not failed to endeavor to make political capital out of it. He generally attempts this with every measure he has not introduced into the House. He claims credit for the One-ninth Bill which was brought forward by the late Mr. Duncan McLean.

Hon. Mr. COLES—Who suggested it to him.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—Can the dead speak? What an appropriate question to ask who suggested it to his mind!

Hon. Mr. COLES—I shall explain that matter.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—Oh, yes, we all know what *your* explanations amount to, and the country also is capable of judging of their importance. The hon. gentleman has acted a most extraordinary part in this matter of the Award; he will not say whether he is openly opposed to it or not. He states that he has attended no meetings except in his own district, and these he called to learn the opinion of his constituents. He desires to keep his hands clear, so that he may be free to act in future; instead of having the manly courage to go and say to his supporters that they should receive or reject the Award. He knows his past course has been so crooked that he does not wish to commit himself on this question. The subject of Escheat, he says, has been held up as a delusion and a snare; but he never possessed the manliness to state that it could be carried at the present time. All that he would say is that it might be necessary to resort to it some day. If we, however, desire a proof of his inconsistency, we have only to turn to the records of 1855—on which year all the *great minds* of that day gave forth their opinions on Escheat—and compare them with those of a subsequent date, since the Loan Bill was refused. Questions have recently been put to a leading member of the opposite party by a gentleman on the same side in politics, who was once a member of this House in regard to this and other subjects, and how have they been answered? They have been altogether evaded, the reply only amounting to this: our political sands have run out, and we have nothing else to propose. When asked what else they had to bring forward when they found fault with the Award, the answer was unsatisfactory to the gentleman who proposed the question, and we think also the supporters of that party generally. I need not answer for the leader of the Government in reference to his opinion that the question would be settled in 8 months. Many an eminent man in his ardor for the success of a remedial measure, may miscalculate in the matter of time. The hon. leader of the Opposition will not come out distinctly against the Award—that would be bad policy; but he seeks to make all the capital he can by blaming the Government because they held out that the question would be settled in a short time, and by saying that the Award was not what the people were led to expect. The hon. member has made certain remarks, half in the form of queries, showing that he is very anxious to find out every little matter connected with the acts of the Government. He has thrown out some insinuations with respect to the person whom he calls a "Spy," and attempts to show wherein the government have betrayed their trust. In regard to the Commission, I maintain that the Administration have faithfully discharged their functions as a government. Had they been actuated by a spirit of unfair play, would they have procured such Counsel to advocate the cause of the tenantry as Samuel Thomson, Esq., one of the most talented members of the New Brunswick Bar; and a gentleman in this Colony who is known to be a supporter of the opposite party, and a reasonable and sound-minded man. Still we have been charged with dereliction of duty because we did not appear before the Commission to advocate the question of quit rents, and fishery reserves. All the documents on those subjects were placed before the tribunal; and with respect to the Colonial Secretary, though I am not here to defend that gentleman, is he to be held up to public reproach because he read certain despatches before the Commissioners? The Counsel for the tenantry, as has been admitted by both Mr. Thomson and the Hon. Mr. Hensley, had perfect liberty to advocate all those questions, and that they did so will be seen by the Report. The hon. leader of the Opposition has adverted to my evidence before the Commission. I am quite prepared to stand by it; and if he will read it carefully through he will find it compares favorably with his own, or that of any other person. That gentleman has insinuated that I set a high value on the lands of this Island; what I said was that the tenants might in some cases be able to pay 18 or 19 years' purchase, but not generally, and in some cases little or nothing. I believe my evidence made an impression on the Commissioners favorable to the tenantry, because Mr. Gray remarked, when objection was taken to my statements by one of the proprietors, "what should be aimed at, is the greatest amount of good to the greatest number." The hon. member says he has heard that the Government or the Governer, he does not know which, refused to accept a copy of the award. All I have to say is that he has heard what is not true. He seems to think that the Government by all means should have obtained a copy of the Commissioners' report before this time. All the documents of the award will have to be carefully examined and considered by the proper officers in England; but if in a matter of such importance, a delay of 6 or 7 months has occurred in forwarding it to this Island, I cannot see why the government should be censured in the case. We are aware that some measures of far less consequence have been detained two or three years at the Colonial Office for consideration, therefore I think as yet we have but little cause to complain. The hon. leader of the Opposition has adverted to the employment of Mr. Wightman by the Commissioners, has characterized him as a spy, and said that he conducted his enquiries with the knowledge of the Government. I deny that the government were acquainted with his mission, and have denied it before. I never knew there was such a person here until after he had left the Island. I have heard since on good authority that he was sent here by the Commissioners, and principally through the influence of the Hon. Mr. Howe, whose friend he was, and who had every confidence in his abilities. He brought a letter from the Commissioners to His Excellency stating his mission, and that it was to be kept secret, besides requesting that he should have access to documents, and that his service should be paid for.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN—Out of the public funds?

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—Yes, out of the public funds; there was no other way that he could be paid. This could not be avoided. The Commissioners had full power to act as they deemed advisable; and I understand that he was sent here to obtain information on some points, respecting which they appear not to have had satisfactory evidence. When the Award is made public, it will be seen what information that gentlemon has furnished, and how far the Commissioners have acted up to it. I know nothing about his evidence, save what has appeared in the public prints. It has been stated that he occupied rooms in this building, and that it must have been with the knowledge of the Government. I again deny that the Government had any knowledge of the gentleman or his mission. From the synopsis of the Award given by Mr. Howe, it is not correct to say that the Commission has fixed a value upon the land. If we obtain the arbitration clause, the tenantry will be in a far better position than they ever were before. They will have the means within their own power to say, to some extent, what value is to be attached to their farms. What position are the tenantry in at present? It is not in any one's power to turn his leasehold into freehold, except at the pleasure of the landlord. Some of the proprietors will not sell at all, as the Messrs. Montgomery and Mr. Sullivan, who will not dispose of their land even at 20 years' purchase. But if the Award come into operation, they cannot refuse to sell; all they can do is to state their price, and if that be deemed too high, the tenant may demand an arbitration. I do not intend to discuss the Award itself, because I am unable to say what it may contain. It will be time enough when it is laid before us, to enter into a consideration of its merits. I shall, however, advert to a remark of the hon. member's in regard to the fishery reserves. He says that the decision of the Commissioners respecting them will not compare with the Act passed by the late Government. Under that Act a person, if he said he wished to establish a fishery, could turn an occupant of the reserves out of his house and garden. This is the position the tenant would have occupied under that law: but by the Award he is confirmed in the possession of his whole front, with, perhaps, the monstrous grievance of paying 1s. an acre rent! All that he has to complain of is, that an acre of it may be taken at a fair valuation, for fishing purposes. There is one other matter to which I desire to allude, namely, the measure proposed by the hon. leader of the Opposition last session, to prevent the collection of arrears of rent. This was the panacea which he had to offer for all the ills of the tenant. This was the means by which he thought to cut the gordian knot. But when he and his friends were in power, why did they not pass an Act to revest all the lands of the Colony in the Crown? the one would be quite as just as the other. The Commissioners did not recommend the passing of such a measure as he proposed; they only suggested that one years' rent should be paid; nor did the Duke of Newcastle recommend anything of the kind. Had the Legislature passed a short Act to prevent the collection of rent without any direct authority or instruction, they would have received a rebuke, because it ought not to be passed without a suspending clause. I believe that the resolution passed by the majority of this House effected more than that measure would, if permitted to pass, for I know that His Excellency exerted his influence in various instances with agents, not to press so hard upon the tenants. A law of the kind which the Opposition desired to pass, would only have produced the effect of the Legislature receiving a censure at the hands of the Colonial Minister.

The Committee rose, and the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Feby. 26.

Committee on the address resumed.

Mr. CONROY—Mr. Chairman, as I have not yet taken a part in this debate, I deem the present an appropriate occasion for the expression of my opinions. A great deal has been said on the subject of the Award of the Land Commissioners. As one member of this House, I may say, Sir, that I feel very little anxiety as to the arrival or non-arrival of that document. When the Commission was sitting, I confess that I expected beneficial results from their labors. We were led to believe that the leasehold tenure would be done away with, that means would be devised to establish the people as freeholders; but I was disappointed when I read the exposition of the Award as given by the Hon. Mr. Howe. I saw that little or no benefit would result to the tenantry from the action of the Commission. On account of the length to which this debate has extended, it is not my intention to occupy the time of the Committee longer than is necessary to allude to one circumstance connected with the Commission. I was surprised last evening to hear the hon. member of the Government, Mr. Longworth, state that he knew nothing of this notorious Mr. Wightman—that he was not aware that he was in the Island, and was in utter ignorance of his business here. I cannot but think it strange that he should be so uninformed on the matter. Mr. Wightman came into my neighborhood, and employed himself in telling all sorts of stories to the people. At Tignish he held out the idea of running a steamer between that place and Shediac. At Cascumpec he talked of building a railroad to Bedeque; and, after instilling into the minds of the people the belief that great public improvements were about to be made by himself and those whose representative he professed to be, he asked what they would sell their lands for? As was to be expected, the people allured by the prospects he held out, in most cases asked four or five times the value of their properties. Before he left the vicinity, his object was suspected, and the people were cautioned to beware of him. He did all that lay in his power to induce the farmers to put a high price upon their lands, and when they had done so, he recorded the figures in his book; and, Sir, all this was done at the instigation of the supposed friend of the tenantry, the Hon. Mr. Howe. Sir, no one would have supposed that gentleman would have employed such agency to deceive the people of the Island to their own injury. It was disgraceful to adopt such means. Mr. Howe sent on a spy to get evidence to contradict that which he and his fellow Commissioners had openly and publicly received from hundreds of the most respectable men on the Island. And this evidence was to be obtained not from the plain unbiassed statements of the people, but their hopes and expectations were to be excited by falsehoods, to induce them to put an exorbitantly high value upon their properties. This House employed Mr. Howe to protect the interests of the tenantry; instead of doing this, he sent among us a spy to tell lies, for the benefit of the proprietors. Mr. Wightman was in the habit of declaring himself delighted with the quality of the land, and after praising it and talking of the proposed steamer or railroad, or some projected fishery, would induce a man, who would otherwise be glad to get £50 for his farm, to ask, it might be, £500. Sir, that man has been paid to libel the people of Prince Edward Island, to endeavor to prove them liars, and when such is the case, I can feel but little interest in the Award. I am, Mr. Chairman, a tenant, and have paid a considerable amount of rent, and I entertain no bad feeling towards the proprietor from whom I hold my land. But while I say that, I must also state that I would be glad to get rid of the incubus of rent, by becoming a freeholder on reasonable terms. As I said before, I cannot expect any benefit from the Award, and am sorry that the Commissioners should have acted in a manner which does not entitle their report to any respect.

Hon. Mr. YEO.—The Commissioners were not so simple persons as not to judge of what was right. Certainly if the award comes into operation it will clear off thousands and thousands of pounds of back rents. Hon. members on the other side say it fixes the price of land at 20s. an acre. This is not the case; the highest only is 20s. an acre; but by the arbitration clause the price may be brought down to 5s. I do not think it is right to take up the time of this House now discussing this subject. H.

Hon. Col. GRAY.—Mr. Chairman; I have to apologize to this Committee for not being in my place yesterday afternoon, which was owing to illness under which I have suffered for the last six or seven weeks, and to the severity of the weather. But as at the hour of adjournment there were two other paragraphs of the Address still to consider, I thought the discussion of this subject would not come up; however though I had been aware of the fact I could not have been present. I will be under the necessity, therefore, of having recourse to the notes of my friend and colleague, the hon. member for Georgetown. I know nothing new on the subject of the award, as it has not yet been received by His Excellency. We have only the synopsis of it given by the Hon. Mr. Howe, and on this account we can say very little respecting its merits or demerits. I shall first answer a few of the objections brought forward by the hon. member for Tignish. He referred to the employment of an individual by the Commissioners, whom they sent here sometime last year for the purpose, it is currently reported, of obtaining statistical information with respect to the value of land. I hope any hon. member will correct me, if this be not the report, viz, too btain information on this subject better than could be had from proprietors and tenants themselves before the Court.

Mr. CONROY.—A person at Tignish informed me that that Mr. Wightman told him he was sent by the Commissioners to procure such information as you have said. When I was told this, I remarked that he must be mistaken, for I did not believe the Commissioners would resort to such means to obtain information.

Hon. Col. GRAY.—Well I was surprised to hear such remarks fall from one whom I supposed to be a friend of the tenantry, for I understand that this gentleman has furnished information favorable to their cause. The award, I learn, has been printed by the Home Government, and when it arrives here I think the people will find that they are under the greatest obligation to Mr. Wightman. If Mr. Howe's exposition be a fair synopsis of the Award, it speaks for itself. It is—speaking of those on the estates of proprietors who agreed to the Commission — the greatest possible boon to the tenantry. An Award by which £100,000 of arrears of rent have been remitted cannot cannot fail to be attended with the most beneficial results to the country. It is as great a boon as ever I expected, and more than I expected. And if it can be proved that Mr. Wightman's evidence has been the means of correcting the pre-conceived opinions of the Commissioners, certainly the tenantry will have no reason to complain. The Commissioners were empowered to proceed according to their pleasure; they were at liberty to come here and conduct the investigation personally and adopt such other means of procuring information as they might deem expedient. I did suggest to them on their leaving the Island, that if they found it necessary, they might return and open a sub-court on the following year; but it appears they did not consider it needful to adopt this course. I do not agree with the remark of the hon. member from Tignish that the Award is not such as to the people have reason to be thankful for. I believe the Commissioners entered upon their duties with the fullest sympathy for the tenantry: and I was happy to hear that the Hon. Mr. Howe said when here that their decision was unanimous. Until we have seen the report of Mr. Wightman, it must be premature to pronounce upon it. The hon. member says the Award is not giving satisfaction. I have heard so too; I have heard that the proprietors do not look upon it with favor. I have seen it also stated in the *Examiner*, that some of the tenantry were dissatisfied because instead of paying £50 they might have to pay only £5. What does the Award give? What was the Award for? The resolutions which I had the honor to propose asked for a large remission of arrears of rent, and giving every tenant holding under a long lease an option of purchasing his land at a certain rate, at any time he might find it convenient to do so. The Award does not promise only a *large* remission of arrears, but all arrears except for three years. I put a paper into the hands of Mr. Thomson to lay before the Court, urging that since tenants at present could be compelled to pay 20 years' arrears, they should at least be remitted all up to four years, as it would require this to place them merely on a footing with other debtors under the Statute of limitations. But by the Award only arrears for three years can be collected, and thus tenants owing £90, £80, £70, £50, of back rent will be let off for £15. L.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR ROADS, BRIDGES, &c.

Queen's County, including Charlotte-town and Royalty,	£1300	0	0
Prince County,	1100	0	0
King's County,	1100	0	0
Special grant for Queen's County,	1200	0	0
Do. do. Prince do.	950	0	0
Do. do. King's do.	950	0	0
Roads opened under Compensation Act,	100	0	0
Contingent expenses of roods, bridges and wharfs to be equally divided between the three Countiss,	300	0	0
	7000	0	0

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, Feb. 27.

This day at twelve o'clock, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor came down to the Legislative Library; and this House, being notified thereof by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, waited upon His Excellency with their Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the present Session, and which is as follows:—

To His Excellency George Dundas, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council in Parliament assembled, thank your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present Session, and assure your Excellency that we shall give our best attention to the affairs of the Colony.

We receive with deep regret the announcement, made to us by your Excellency, of the irreparable loss sustained by Her Majesty, and the Nation of which we form a part, in the death of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort.

In common with Her Majesty's loyal subjects, in all parts of Her dominions, we sincerely mourn with our Most Gracious Sovereign this melancholy bereavement.

We are gratified to know that so many of the Acts passed last Session have received the Royal allowance.

Any despatches laid before us by your Excellency, containing suggestions on the Acts not yet allowed, shall command our best attention.

We look confidently to great beneficial results to the trade of this Colony from the special confirmation by Her Majesty of the Act authorising the issue of Fishery Licenses to citizens of the United States.

We are much gratified to know that the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the Land Question have completed their laborious task, and that their Report has been forwarded to Her Majesty's Government; and we join with your Excellency in confident expectation that this Session of the Colonial Legislature will not be allowed to pass without receiving a communication from the Imperial Government on this all important subject, in which the people of this country are so much interested, and about which they are so deeply anxious.

We must, however, express our regret that the Award has not yet been received by your Excellency from His Grace the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

We hear with great satisfaction the proposal your Excellency has received from the Governor General of Canada, to establish a Reciprocal Free Trade among the British North American Provinces, and for an assimilation of their respective tariffs; and when your Excellency shall be pleased to lay before us the papers relating to the subject, they shall receive our most favorable consideration.

Invoking the Divine blessing to aid us in our deliberations, we trust they will result in the advancement and prosperity of the people of this Colony.

His Excellency was pleased to return the following answer:—

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

I thank you for your Address and for the assurance it contains that you will give your best attention to the affairs of this Colony.

You may rely on my desire to co-operate with you in all measures for the public good.

Hon. Mr. Anderson obtained leave of absence till Monday the tenth of March next.

Adjourned until to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

MONDAY, March 3.

The Council met at 11½ o'clock, and there not being a quorum, they adjourned till to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

TUESDAY, March 4, 1862.

Hon. Mr. Palmer, from the Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor with the joint address of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, requesting him to forward the joint address of condolence with Her Majesty the Queen on the melancholy death of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort, reported, that they had waited upon His Excellency and that he had been pleased to say, that he would forward the Address to Her Majesty by that evening's mail.

Hon. Mr. Palmer, a member of the Executive Council, informed the House that he was directed by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to lay before the House the follwing

MESSAGE.

The Lieutenant Governor transmits for the information of the Legislative Council, copies of the following Despatches from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

No. 82.—September 17th, 1861.—In answer to application for further supply of Arms for Volunteer Force.

Lieutenant Governor Dundas's answer thereto.

No. 83.—September 20, 1861.—Respecting an Act to incorporate the Gulf Express and Telegraph Company.

Lieutenant Governor Dundas's answer thereto.

No. 92.—January 19th, 1862.—Leaving to its operation an Act to incorporate the Gulf Express and Telegraph Company.

No. 85.—October 22nd, 1861.—Leaving to their operation 31 Acts of the Local Legislature (1861).

No. 86.—October 22nd, 1861.—Specially confirming an Act of the Local Legislature (1861).

No. 89.—December 5th, 1861.—Enclosing an order in Council specially confirming an Act (No. 1046) of the Local Legislature (1860).

Circular—December 10th, 1861.—Enclosing copies of orders in Council prohibiting Exportation of Arms, &c., and of gunpowder, &c., &c.

Feb. 1st, 1862.—Governor General of Canada to Lieutenant Governor Dundas—Proposal for establishment of Free Trade among the British Colonies of North America.

No. 63.—April 10th, 1861.—On subject of an Act to authorize Grants of the Shores of this Island.

Circular—May 16th, 1861.—Enclosing Proclamation of neutrality as regards War in the United States.

Circular.—1st June, 1861.—On subject of Hostilities in United States of America.

No. 77.—July 10th, 1861.—Announcing that 4 Brass Guns and 50 Swords are to be sent out as a free gift to the Colony.

No. 82.—August 19th, 1861.—Refusing to submit for Her Majesty's assent, an Act to incorporate the Roman Catholic Bishop of Charlottetown in his Diocese.

No. 81.—August 29th, 1861.—Respecting an Act of Local Legislature (1861) to provide for the organization of a Volunteer Force.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—I cannot refrain from making an observation on one of the Despatches which has just been read. It is the one relating to an Act passed by the Colonial Legislature last Session, to incorporate the Roman Catholic Bishop of Charlottetown. That Act has been disallowed for the present in consequence of various defects which are pointed out by the Despatch. An Act which is very imperfect will sometimes find its way through the Legislature of this Island, as well as through those of the other Colonies, and even of Britain. It was the boast of a celebrated man that he could drive a coach and six through almost any Act of Parliament. The under Secretary of State has placed the Act in question under a very severe criticism. He certainly was not in a very happy temper of mind when he penned that Despatch. The Bill was furnished to an hon. member of the other Branch of the Legislature already prepared. It was, I believe, a transcript of a Bill which was introduced into the Legislature of Canada, and which, if I mistake not, passed into law there, if so it must have received the sanction of the Colonial Minister. It is not a very uncommon thing for Acts of that kind to pass without very close attention by disinterested members; not that they are relieved from the duty of attending to them, but because they are left to the members who are more immediately concerned. I have examined the Act since the Despatch came out, and I cannot see that there was any necessity for such a severe criticism; for, during my legislative experience, I never saw such a captious Despatch. However, the Despatch contains a declaration that the Colonial Minister is willing to accede to the principle of the Bill; and I suppose the other branch of the Legislature will be able to frame a Bill which will meet the approval of the under Secretary of State.

Hon. Mr. Palmer, a member of the Executive Council, presented the accounts of the Colonial Treasurer for the year ending 31st January, 1862.

Ordered, That the same do lie on the table.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, March 5th.

Hon. Mr. Simpson, from the Committee appointed to consider the subject of a Savings' Bank, reported by Bill, and moved that it be read a first time. The said Bill was accordingly read the first time, and the second reading thereof was made the order of the day for to-morrow.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

DEAR SIR,—In the copy of my sixth letter to the Editor of the 'Protestant,' which I sent you last week, there was a mistake which I did not perceive until I read the letter in your issue of the 3rd inst. When writing that communication, in order to save time, I got another person to copy from a volume of "Macaulay's Essays" the extract to which I alluded in the letter, but instead of writing the part which I pointed out to him, he, by mistake, copied from the next leaf the extract which appears in the 'Examiner,' and to which my remarks are not applicable. Being in a hurry, and taking it for granted that the proper part was copied, I did not read the extract which was sent to you.

My opponents may say that, by the extract which I sent to you by mistake, I have unwittingly furnished them with arms against myself, inasmuch as Lord Macaulay says that "Ignorance was the talisman on which their power (that of Nicholas and men like Nicholas) depended, and that talisman they had themselves broken. They had called in knowledge to decorate superstition, and their error produced its natural effect." But these words of Macaulay only render his testimony in favor of the Popes of double weight and importance. The Protestantism of this eminent man was such as to satisfy the most prejudiced Presbyterian, as is evident from the above extract, and therefore we cannot be surprised at any thing which he has spoken or written disparagingly of Catholicity or the Popes. The adverse testimony of a bitter enemy is of little or no avail, whereas his favorable admissions carry with them the greatest weight. Lord Macaulay has given unmistakable proof of his bitter hostility to the Catholic religion, and consequently his admissions in favor of the Popes are of very great importance.

The latter portion of my last letter to the Editor of the 'Protestant' should be as follows:—

"But those who have been thus deceived will be much more astonished when they read the following well-merited and eloquent tribute of respect and gratitude paid to the memory of a Pope by no less a personage than the late Lord Macaulay, a Scotchman, and one of the most talented and eminent Protestants not only of this country, but of any other. To this beautiful passage from one of their co-religionists and countrymen, I would respectfully direct the attention of Scotch Protestants, whose national and religious feelings are now being excited by certain designing politicians, who, apparently, would not scruple to arouse in this community a never-dying spirit of religious animosity, and disturb the peace of society, provided they served their own selfish interests.

"Lord Macaulay, in the speech which he delivered on the 21st March, 1839, on the occasion of his installation as Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow, said—

"'At this conjuncture—a conjuncture of unrivalled interest in the history of letters—a man never to be mentioned without reverence by every lover of letters, held the highest place in Europe. Our just attachment to that Protestant faith to which our country