

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

CIVIL LIST.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20.

(Reported for the British American.)

The House went into Committee, when Mr. Owen proposed the sum of Five Shillings be levied on every One Hundred Acres of Land, within the several Townships of this Island, as well as the small Islands belonging thereto, and the sum of One Shilling on every Town Lot, Pasture Lot, Water Lot, and Common Lot, within the Town and Royalty of Charlotte-Town, and the sum of Nine-pence on every Lot in the Town and Royalty of George-Town, and of Prince-Town. Upon this a very animated debate took place, which was reported by Messrs. Speaker, Hyndman, Hugh McDonald, Brecken, Binns, Dalrymple, Owen and Cody; alleging that the tax ought to bear in an acreable manner upon all lands in the Island, whether in Town or Country, and that such was the intention of Lord Goderich in his despatch to the Lieut. Governor, in answer to the address of the House sent home last Session. They said they could not see the difference between land in the Royalty here than in the Country, and that unless the House would adopt a property tax, it was unjust and unpolicy to tax the lands in any of the Towns or Royalities higher than other lands in the Island.

It was on the other side warmly maintained by Messrs. Pope, Green, Brennan, Compton, Willock, and John Small McDonald, that it was the greatest injustice to tax the lands in the country so high, while the sums levied on the lots in the Royalities were diminished instead of increased, the present tax was intended to be permanent one, and was to be put on lieu of all Quit Rents. By the tax now force, which suspended the operation of the Quit Rents, during its continuance there was only two shillings for every one hundred acres of land in the Townships, and to shillings on every lot within the Town and Royalty of Charlotte-Town, and one shilling and four-pence on every lot in the Town and Royalities of George-Town and Prince-Town. And what equity they would do was their now in raising a tax from two to five shillings for each one hundred acres in the Townships while it went to reduce the rate of taxation so much in the Towns and Royalities. If the land was no better in the Towns and Royalities, than in the Country, in proportion to quantity, it had at least the privilege of turning six Members to the House of Assembly, and from the present appearance of things, it evidently appeared that those who possessed property, in, or represented the Towns, cared nothing about the Country, only to tax it, for the support of the Towns. While the seat of Government is Charlotte-Town; it is clear enough

it is there the Civil List would be expended; and whatever Lord Goderich intended in the despatch, respecting an equitable or acreable tax on land—it was not to be supposed that he ever intended to raise the rate of Quit Rents on the Country lands for the sake of reducing them in the Towns. Formerly His Majesty's Government imposed a Quit Rent of Seven Shillings sterling on each Town Lot in Charlotte-Town, and now how could the people of Charlotte-Town complain to pay a sum in lieu of that Quit-rent, of three or four shillings currency per Lot. It was a fact but too well known, that there were great monopolists in the Towns and Royalities, as well as in the Townships, and if a tax, in order to settle, or compel the settlement of the latter was necessary, why not the same argument hold good respecting the former, a lot in either Town or Royalty intitled a man to a vote, and why not tax that as high as a hundred acres of land in the country, which conferred no more privilege on the owner or occupant. On a division, there appeared for Mr. Owen's resolution, Messrs. Owen, Brecken, Binns, H. McDonald, Nelson, Dalrymple, Cody, Hyndman, Roderick MacNeil.—Against it Messrs. Pope, Brennan, J. S. McDonald, Green, Cooper, Willock, Compton. Messrs. Brennan and Pope pledged themselves to vote against the Bill in case it should be brought in agreeably to the resolution.—Since the above was in type we understand that the rate has been from five shillings to four and six-pence per hundred acres in the Townships, and in the Royalities and Towns, raised from one shilling to two shillings per Lot in Charlotte-Town, and from nine-pence to one shilling and four-pence in George-Town and Prince-Town.

SATURDAY, MARCH, 23.

House in Committee on Bill appointing Commissioners for superintending a new edition of the Statute Book, on filing up the blank for limiting the time for taking in Tenders from Printers, it was proposed that it should be filled up with the words "PUBLIC NEWS-PAPERS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND." Some others remarked that its Publicity ought to be confined to the Royal Gazette. On the division taking place, it appeared that in favor of the Royal Gazette there were five, and against it five. Mr. Owen being in the chair, and having the casting vote, he said, he could not think of patronizing that blackguard and villainous Paper of Mr. White's, and would therefore vote against it getting the publication of the notice for the Tenders.—**PUBLICISTS!!!**

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