Queensland

Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 23 AUGUST 1864

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 23 *August*, 1864.

Cultivation of Sugar and Coffee.—Payment to New South Wales Government for furnishing the Old Government House.

CULTIVATION OF SUGAR AND COFFEE.

Mr. COXEN moved, pursuant to amended notice,—"(1.) That considering the importance of promoting and establishing the growth and production of sugar and coffee in Queensland, it is desirable that land be granted under lease, with right to purchase, to any person or company undertaking the growth of either of the above productions, on an extended scale. (2.) That the Government be therefore empowered to lease any lands selected for the above purpose, in blocks of not less than 320 acres or more than 1,280 acres, for the period of three years (such lease not to be renewed), at the rate of one shilling per acre per annum, with a right of purchase to the lessee, at the rate of twenty shillings per acre, during any period of the said lease. Provided that an amount of not less than twenty shillings per acre in the aggregate shall have been expended on the land so selected, and not less than one-twentieth of the said land shall have been planted with either sugar-cane or coffee. (3.) That the above resolutions be communicated by address to His Excellency the Governor, with a request that the necessary regulations in this behalf may be promulgated without delay." He had, he said, been induced to put these resolutions on the paper, because it had been mentioned to him by several parties that some little encouragement might be afforded by the House for the production of coffee and sugar, for which it was thought the Colony was favorable. The cultivation of those commodities would benefit the Colony greatly, not so much by enabling us to export them, as by keeping in the country the large amount of money that was now sent away to other ports for them. The amount paid for sugar, in 1863, was somewhere about £90,000; and it might be supposed that in the present year it would reach £120,000. He had been careful not to ask for what might be deemed too much. Honorable members, he believed, looked with very great suspicion on anything that might be regarded as a bonus, or that was for the encouragement of agriculture. The late discussions on the cotton and tobacco resolutions had opened his eyes to that fact. However, no honorable member in the House could say that he asked too much for the encouragement of sugar cultivation. The great benefit that the sugar grower would derive from these resolutions, if adopted by the House, would be permission to select his land without any loss of time. If gentlemen or companies, wishing to form sugar or coffee plantations, had to wait a length of time for their land, as was the case at present, the delay was a great loss to them; a year might elapse before anything could be done. He did not think much was asked from the Government or the country in the second resolution. Any persons availing themselves of that resolution would have to expend as much, at least, as the upset price on the lands; and, perhaps, much more. Some expressions of opinion, in opposition to the system of leases had been dropped, as it was said to be too much like deferred payments. One thing was certain, however, that no "job" could be done under the resolutions. A large amount of money had to be expended, and actual cultivation carried on upon the land during three years before the claimant could purchase it. If the right to purchase immediately for the purposes stated were granted, the conditions might be evaded, and sugar and coffee growing would be a myth. But the condition of lease would prevent any evasion. He trusted the House would adopt the resolutions.

Mr. R. CRIBB said he could not see any objection to the resolutions, which he thought would work well, and be the means of assisting the culture of sugar and coffee. The only boon asked for was immediate possession of the land, and there was a provision to prevent speculation. There could not be two opinions that the sugar-cane would thrive in this Colony. He should support the motion.

The SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS said it was not the intention of the Government to oppose the motion. He thought the honorable member for the Northern Downs had advanced sufficient grounds, at any rate, to justify the House in making the experiment; and if sugar and coffee could be raised in this Colony, he thought the House would do well to encourage it in the way applied for by the honorable member. In fact, there was no encouragement given by the resolutions. The land was to be leased on conditions of cultivation, and subsequently taken up at 20s. an acre; so that, if the productions were at all suitable, the Colony would be a very great gainer by the arrangement.

Mr. WIENHOLT said he did not approve of the resolutions at all. If such a system were permitted, the eyes of the Colony would soon be picked out. Land would be taken up at 20s. an acre, with a nominal rent, which might be worth £10 or £12. If persons wished to try sugar and coffee, they should purchase the land at once.

Mr. TAYLOR said if he thought the resolutions before the House would have the effect of picking out the eyes of the country, he should be one of the first to oppose the motion. He believed that had been the case with the cotton bonuses, for those who got the land were now growing potatoes and corn upon it. But he did not think that would be the effect of the resolutions before the House, which would merely allow persons to take up land, for which they would pay a reasonable interest, and then, after certain improvements had been made, they could purchase it, or throw it up. They would also be able to obtain certain portions of land which were suited to the growth of sugar and coffee, and which might otherwise be taken up, The cotton bonus he believed to have proved a perfect swindle.

Mr. BELL approved of the resolutions; and further, he thought that if, at the expiration of the three years' lease, the land taken up was not purchased, it would be quite within the province of the Government to make allowance for improvements. ("No, no.") Unlike the honorable member who spoke last, he approved of the bonus system—he approved of both. It was the abuse of the system that he disapproved of.

Mr. MCLEAN said he had no objection to the proposition before the House; but the honorable member (Mr. Coxen) had not defined the districts within which the right of selection was to be exercised. He left it open all over the country. He might amend his motion by defining the limits within which selection should be made.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY was very glad indeed to be informed that the honorable member for West Moreton (Mr. Bell) had obtained some bonuses from the Government for growing cotton. He had done good in showing persons how cotton could be grown. So long as it was not hundreds of thousands of pounds, he approved of the bonus system for encouraging such valuable productions. He would now remark to the honorable member for the Western Downs that it was not likely land would be taken up indiscriminately over the Colony; it was only in the districts on the seaboard—about three miles on the seaboard which were not used for pastoral purposes, and which were particularly suited to the cultivation of sugar and coffee—that the land was likely to be selected.

Mr. PUGH said he was of the same opinion as the Colonial Secretary, and he thought further, that a certain portion of the country on the seaboard should be reserved for these purposes. He did not believe the sugar-cane would thrive as well in the neighborhood of Brisbane as it would further north. He approved of the resolutions which merely asked permission for the intending sugar grower to purchase land at twenty shillings per acre.

Dr. CHALLINOR said he could not countenance the motion, because it savored too much of free selection and deferred payments. He felt convinced that if large sums of money were expended on the land, persons would not be inclined to give it up, nor would the Government take it from them. He feared the resolutions would be evaded. That they were brought forward in good faith, he had no doubt, but he thought the result would be that companies would be found who would take up land in large quantities under the system. Besides which, there was one great objection to the resolutions; they were all in favor of the capitalist, and he did not think the House ought to legislate for the capitalist. There was no reason to believe that the sugar-cane would not be profitable to the small cultivator, and the field ought to be left open to him. He should not object to the same principle which was adopted in the agricultural reserves, where a person bought a portion of his land, and leased the remainder. He thought it was better to give a bonus than a grant of land, for it would be impossible to say what land might not be taken up during the next three years. When a bonus was given, it was only for what was actually grown.

Mr. BROOKES said he was surprised to hear the honorable member for Ipswich (Dr. Challinor) say that the resolutions before the House favored the capitalist. He did not consider this was a poor man's question at all, but still, if a man had £400, or even £320, he could enter upon the cultivation of sugar. In the West Indies, he believed there were estates which did not comprise more than twenty acres, from which an income was made as large as that derived from a good station in this Colony. He believed the resolutions would have the effect of giving an impetus to a new branch of agri-

culture, and would keep within the Colony a large amount of capital now sent away yearly.

Mr. COXEN, in reply, observed that a large amount of capital had been introduced into the Colony for the cultivation of sugar. Out of nearly £50,000 which had been expended already on the plantations, £40,000 was capital brought into the Colony for that purpose. When the cotton regulations were first introduced, he confessed he did not understand them; but he believed everything done under them was *bonâ fide*, and that there had been no swindle. As to the resolutions having the effect of picking the eyes out of the country, he thought there was no man fool enough to go to the Darling Downs to grow sugar or coffee; the coast country would be that sought after. Now, Port Curtis to Port Denison would be better, perhaps, than the southern coast. In fact, his experience was, that in this part of the country there were very few suitable spots. He thought the outlay upon the land would amount to about £4 an acre in the three years.

The question was then put, and the resolutions were agreed to.

PAYMENT TO NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT FOR FURNISHING THE OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

Mr. MACKENZIE moved, pursuant to notice, —"That in the opinion of this House, pending the settlement of accounts between this Colony and that of New South Wales, the action of the Executive Council in authorising the payment to the Treasury of that Colony of the sum of £1,245 without a Parliamentary vote, was arbitrary and unconstitutional, and a grave infringement on the rights and privileges of the representatives of the people in Parliament assembled." Having been absent when, on a recent occasion, a vote for making good the payment came before the House, and being thereby prevented from making some remarks upon it, and dividing the House, he now brought forward this motion. He felt the more inclined to test the opinion of the House upon it now, from the cool manner in which the Colonial Secretary had answered his questions, put to him with reference to this subject. It might be remembered that some time ago he moved for certain correspondence with regard to the above-mentioned payment, and that he then quoted largely from the correspondence that had taken place between the Government of Queensland and that of New South Wales in the year 1860, on the settlement of accounts between the two colonies. He need not now travel over that ground and make further extracts from the correspondence referred to. But he held in his hand some correspondence which he had moved for lately, and he had to say that it bore out the opinion he had before expressed upon the payment—that it was wrong, and this was admitted by the Government in every line. It appeared that the Government of New South Wales had been very hard-up, and were beating about everywhere to make up their assets, when they suddenly made a demand for the re-payment of an advance to this Colony. Why did they not make it before? Nearly four years had been allowed to elapse. He would merely anticipate a remark that would be made by honorable members opposite—that the House had been exceedingly indulgent to the Government whenever they had had to expend money without obtaining the authority of Parliament. He had been in that position himself; but the youth of the country, and the emergency of these cases, necessitating immediate expenditure to carry on the service of the country, were admitted as justification for what had been done. In the present case, the money had not been spent for the service of the country; there was no emergency to justify the payment without the sanction of Parliament. In a vote of that kind, the Audit Act rendered it necessary to refer it to the Auditor-General; and he (Mr. Mackenzie) considered that it came within the eighteenth and nineteenth sections of the Act. He was not aware whether the Auditor-General had protested against the payment, because he had not enquired:—

"18. Before countersigning any such instrument as aforesaid, such Auditor-General shall ascertain that the sums therein mentioned are then legally available for, and applicable to, the service or purpose mentioned in such instrument, and, after countersigning such instrument, shall return the same to the Treasurer, who shall thereupon submit it to the Governor for his approval and signature."

Now, the sum of £1,245 was not legally available, because it had not been voted by the House, and any expenditure not voted by the Assembly was contrary to law.

"19. In case the said Auditor-General shall, on examining the instrument set forth in the last preceding section, find that the sums therein stated, or any of them, are not then legally available or applicable to the services or purposes therein set forth, he shall withhold his countersignature from the certificate, and shall return to the Treasurer the said instrument, attaching thereto a paper setting forth in writing for the information of the Governor the grounds on which he withholds his countersignature; and such paper shall be placed before the Governor, with the said instrument, when submitted by the Treasurer for his signature and approval."

He was not aware whether that was the course pursued by the Auditor-General, but that was his duty clearly. When he, as a member of the Ministry, was endeavoring to get certain small accounts settled connected with separation, the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales always referred him to the Auditor-General, whose opinion was conclusive and whose advice was always taken. It appeared that in the month of October last year, Mr. Cowper,

then Colonial Secretary of New South Wales, addressed a letter to this Government asking for the money mentioned. Thereupon the Executive Council met, and this minute of their proceedings was recorded:—

"The Council deliberate,—Having hitherto been under the impression that it was not the intention of the Government of New South Wales to charge this Colony an expenditure incurred prior to its establishment, but rather to make the necessary preparation for the accommodation of Her Majesty's representative voluntarily, as a graceful compliment to the off-shoot from the parent stem, the Council express their regret on finding that their own views on the matter are not reciprocated by the Government of New South Wales. The claim for repayment having been made, the Council will not entirely repudiate the liability of the Colony; but as New South Wales was at that very time, and subsequently, in receipt of moneys which were part of the legitimate revenue of this Colony, they are unanimous in the opinion, that the advances made to the Government Resident may, with the utmost propriety, be dealt with as a matter of account when the question of intercolonial debt shall be taken into consideration. It is, therefore, advised, that the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales be communicated with, in terms embodying the purport of this minute."

Here was a clear expression of opinion by the Executive that the money should not be paid: but then that was a different question from that of paying the money without the consent of Parliament. When, in 1860, a demand was made by this Government for the £18,000 which the New South Wales Government had collected from this Colony, previous to separation, the answer returned was, that payment could not be made without the consent of Parliament. The same plea might have been urged now by the Government of Queensland. He contended that the £1,245 was not an advance made by the New South Wales Government at all, but it was out of the revenue of this Colony which had been collected by that Government. However, the Colonial Secretary wrote a letter embodying the minute of the Executive; and then, again the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales wrote,—

"You state that the Government of Queensland have hitherto been under the impression that it was not the intention of the Government of New South Wales to charge the former with this expenditure, but that a claim for repayment having been advanced, your Government will not repudiate the liability; but as New South Wales was at that very time, and subsequently, in receipt of moneys which formed the legitimate revenue of Queensland, you are of opinion that the advances made to the Government Resident may, with the utmost propriety, be dealt with as a matter of account when the question of intercolonial debt shall be taken into consideration."

Here they were consulting, but the Legislature was never at all alluded to. In the seventh paragraph of his letter, the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales said,—

"As the money may, however, under the circumstances, be fairly held to have been advanced on the faith of the Imperial Government, the claim of this Colony will, of course, be made against that Government, if the terms of your letter should be persisted in. But before proceeding to this extremity, I have the honor once more to submit the claim to the consideration of the Queensland Government."

Now, was not this a most improper state of things? The Government of New South Wales held out a threat of appealing to the Imperial Government, and this Government at once gave way. He would like to know what the Imperial Government had to do with it. The language was certainly somewhat ambiguous; but the Government had evidently been frightened about the threatened appeal, for the following minute was passed at a subsequent meeting of the Executive:—

"As stated in their previous minute, they have no desire in any way to repudiate their liability in the matter at issue. They are still of opinion that the amount in question might justly be placed as a 'set-off' upon the adjustment of intercolonial accounts. To bring the matter to a close, however, they record their readiness to liquidate the debt at once, and, accordingly, advise that the Colonial Treasurer be directed to remit the amount (£1,245) to the New South Wales treasury, charging the item to 'unforeseen expenditure.'"

He believed, if ever the day should come when there would be a settlement of the accounts between New South Wales and Queensland, it was more than probable that this Colony would be found to be in debt; and, if so, this Colony would pay cheerfully. But here was nothing of the kind proved. The Government might have considered this a debt of honor, but they should have given the same answer to New South Wales that the Government of New South Wales gave to this Government, when applied to for payment of the £18,000 of our revenue. If the question had come before the Legislature he did not think the Assembly would have agreed to it. The Government had no right whatever to pay the Government of New South Wales without a vote of the House. Unless the honorable members were to resign their functions, they should control the expenditure. He should like to have an expression of opinion from honorable members on the question. He did not want their votes; for whether he pressed the motion to a division or not, it would be left for further consideration.

Mr. Douglas seconded the motion.

The Colonial Secretary said the matter having been under the consideration of the House on a previous occasion, he certainly thought the honorable member had selected a most unfortunate item on which to canvass the conduct of the Government as to the settlement of accounts between this Colony and New South Wales; for if there was one which the Government was bound to pay

without delay it was that for the furniture of Government House. He was surprised that the New South Wales Government had gone so far; they were not bound to put one stick of furniture in it, and they might have left us to make the best arrangement we could. They did an act of courtesy to this Colony, and he believed that they did it without a vote of the Legislature of New South Wales, for the Legislature was not then sitting. Whether or no, the money had been advanced as an act of courtesy to this Colony, and on the distinct understanding that it was to be speedily repaid. At that time the general question of accounts was nearly settled on the basis recommended by Sir William Denison, and this matter was not properly brought in. He (the Colonial Secretary) felt if the matter were referred to any impartial person outside, it would be said that this Government had been guilty of very sharp practice in keeping the money unpaid for four years. No doubt, this Government did continue to withhold it, but they had not been applied to for payment. But when they were at last pressed for it, in such unmistakable language, there was no alternative but to pay. He should be exceedingly ashamed if the House did not indorse the conduct of the Government. As to not expending money without a vote of the House, the honorable member knew that that was an impossible theory of Government;—it was a fine *ad captandum* argument that everything was to be voted before it was spent, but in practice it was not always found to answer for the advantage of the country. If the honorable member could get a majority for his motion, of course there could only be one result. If the Government were found guilty of unconstitutional conduct, they would not continue to occupy the treasury benches. (Hear, hear.) But he did not think the honorable member was prepared to push his motion to the full issue. He had no doubt, however, the majority thought with him that the Government acted in a manner which was perfectly justified. Otherwise, it would be hard to know what theory of Government they should act upon; and he certainly should not continue to act unless he got his instructions more clearly.

Mr. DOUGLAS said that the honorable member at the head of the Government was, according to his own statement, in this position: he had yielded to the pressure which had been brought to bear upon him—the claim of the New South Wales Government had, in point of fact, been acceded to in consequence of a threat held out to this Government, and not as a point of honor. It would have been a safe and sufficient reason to have declined to accede to the demand until the matter had been brought before the Legislature of Queensland. (The honorable member proceeded to quote portions of the correspondence, and said the House were bound to affirm that the Government were not authorised in the expenditure referred to.) A certain expenditure was, no doubt, necessary to carry on the business of the Government, but it ought to be, he contended, within the limits prescribed by Parliament; and unless that were the case, the House might as well hand over their powers at once to the Executive.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL maintained that the item of payment for the furniture of Government House was no part of the separation account between New South Wales and Queensland. If honorable members opposite censured the Government for not sooner repaying the advance to New South Wales, there would be something in it; but he denied that they could bring a logical argument in support of the present motion. The honorable member for the Burnett had charged the Government, of which he was at that time a member, with illegal action. But was it to be said that because there had been a delay in paying this sum, which had been sometime due, the conduct of the Government was illegal and unconstitutional? He thought the honorable member would find it difficult to bring the House to his way of thinking.

Mr. BLAKENEY said that no doubt the Government of New South Wales had advanced the £1,245 in question since separation. But since that period they had been their own paymasters, and had received large sums in the shape of assessment upon runs, publicans' licenses, and all other moneys they could lay their hands on, amounting to somewhere about £18,000. If those sums had been returned there would have been some justice in returning the £1,200.

Mr. R. CRIBB moved,—"That the question be amended by the omission of all the words following the word "that," with a view to the insertion in their place, of the words—"in the opinion of this House the Government of New South Wales should have allowed the matter in question to remain in abeyance until the general settlement. That, in the manner in which the New South Wales Government pressed the settlement of this account, the Government of Queensland had no honorable alternative but to pay the same, and this House approves of the payment accordingly." He thought the amendment would more fully meet the case, and be more just in every respect. In moving it he believed he was only doing an act of justice to the Government.

Mr. BELL said that if the same code of morality applied to the Government as to private individuals, he could not see how the Government could have acted otherwise. He regretted that the motion should have been placed on the paper, and he would have preferred to see it meet the fate which would have attended it had the amendment not been moved. He would, however, support the amendment.

Dr. CHALLINOR said that if the Government of New South Wales had referred the matter to the home Government, as they had

threatened to do if the £1,200 were not paid, they would have placed themselves in a very awkward position, since they had taken about £18,000 of our revenue since separation. He quite admitted, if they had not helped themselves to that sum, the Government of Queensland would have been quite right to refund the £1,245. But, so long as the New South Wales Government retained the £18,000, they had no claim whatever to it. He believed the money for the furniture of Government House was not remitted to Captain Wickham to be expended here, but that it was money actually received in this Colony. And it seemed to him (Dr. Challinor) quite as fair to make use of that money here, as it was for the New South Wales Government to receive £18,000 collected on this side. He admitted that there were cases in which it might be desirable that the Government should incur certain expenditure without waiting for the sanction of Parliament; but the case in question did not appear to him to be one of them. He thought the House was quite as jealous of its honor as the Government, and as little likely to repudiate a just claim. It was quite clear that Sir William Denison admitted the claim of this Colony to the £18,000, and equally clear that the £1,245 was obtained out of the revenue for 1860. He was not prepared, however, to support the motion of the honorable member for the Burnett, for though he did not consider the claim was justified, he was inclined to attribute its payment to an error of judgment on the part of the Government, rather than a desire to ignore the functions of the Legislature. The Government had, perhaps, acted more from a morbid sense of honor, than from any other motive. He hoped the honorable member for East Moreton would withdraw his amendment, and that the honorable member who moved the resolution, after having elicited the opinions of the House, would withdraw it also. If the amendment were put, he should vote against it; and if the original motion were put, he should either vote against it, or withdraw from the House.

Mr. Wienholt said he was of opinion that the Government had acted quite properly in the matter. There was only one thing he blamed them for, and that was, resisting the claim so long. He thought it would have been better if they had paid the money at the time, especially as the furniture was sent up after separation. The debt was one of a peculiar nature, and he did not think it looked well to let it remain unpaid.

Mr. R. Cribb then withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Douglas, referring to a remark made by a previous speaker, denied that the Government had pursued a course which would have been either legal or proper in a private individual. Supposing such a case to occur between a squatter and a merchant, would the latter be justified in saying, "I require payment of your bill, which is now due, although I have appropriated to myself a considerable portion of your property, which I still hold?" There was a simple debit and credit account between the two colonies; and he (Mr. Douglas) could see nothing in the question of furniture which rendered this a debt of honor more than any other item in the account. There were many things which were more necessary for carrying on the government of the country than the furniture for Government House. As long as the New South Wales Government delayed meeting the just claims of this Colony, he could not see that this Government were justified in paying the £1,200 in question, without some equivalent.

The Secretary for Lands and Works recommended the honorable member for the Burnett to withdraw his motion, as he must be convinced that he would not be able to carry it, and that the House were perfectly satisfied with the explanation given by the honorable Colonial Secretary. He (Mr. Macalister) would have been more inclined to have met the resolution with a negative than to support the amendment of the honorable member for East Moreton (Mr. R. Cribb). The honorable member for the Burnett had stigmatised the conduct of the Government as illegal and unconstitutional, but he had totally failed to prove either of those charges. The principal argument advanced by that honorable member, and by the honorable member for Port Curtis, was, that the Government of New South Wales were indebted to this Government at the time of separation, and that they were so still. But he (Mr. Macalister) contended that the £1,200 in question was not an item in the accounts between the two colonies. When His Excellency arrived in New South Wales, he had not a single sixpence from the Home Government to purchase furniture for Government House; and the Government of that colony advanced the money for that specific purpose, with a distinct understanding that it should be repaid. Surely, the honorable member for the Burnett did not require to be told that between Governments as well as private individuals there were debts of honor which must be met. When the Government of New South Wales advanced the money, they did not apply to their Legislature. They took the responsibility upon themselves; and for what he knew to the contrary, they had not, up to this date, received the sanction of Parliament. Did the honorable member mean to say that the Government were not bound to fulfil their obligations? If they had resisted the claim, he could understand that there might have been some ground for censure; but as they had met it, and had taken the earliest opportunity of obtaining the sanction of the House, he could see no reason for imputing blame to them.

Mr. Taylor expressed his opinion that the motion before the House was a last expiring effort to oust the Ministry from their seats before the session was over, and he had no

doubt whatever it would prove a failure. He thought the honorable member for the Burnett was the very last person who should have brought forward such a motion, for no other person had paid away such large sums of money unsanctioned by Parliament as that honorable member. Were the honorable members who supported the motion of opinion that His Excellency should have gone into an unfurnished house, and if not, where was the money for the furniture to come from? The money was advanced for the purpose by the Government of New South Wales, simply out of good feeling towards this Colony, that His Excellency might not commence his life in Queensland by going into an empty house. Perhaps honorable members were not aware that the Government of New South Wales had repaid us large sums of money. He knew that in his district alone those payments had amounted to nearly £800—for impounding fees, hospitals, police courts, &c. The objections which had been urged against the conduct of the Queensland Government in this matter would teach them how to act when the northern districts obtained separation—(a laugh)—and if an advance were required then, he thought, after what had taken place, the Government would be very foolish to make it.

Mr. MACKENZIE, in reply, explained that the furniture for Government House was paid for out of the revenue from that portion of New South Wales which was called Moreton Bay; and there was a balance of about £1,100 left in the hands of Captain Wickham, which he (Mr. Mackenzie), as Colonial Treasurer, with the permission of the Executive Council, retained. The honorable Colonial Secretary had stated that if the resolutions were agreed to he should consider that a vote of want of confidence had been passed, and that he should be unable any longer to carry on responsible Government. The honorable gentleman should have said "such a Government as was then in office," which he (Mr. Mackenzie) affirmed was no more to be compared to responsible Government than that of Louis Napoleon. Such a motion would not only have been put on the paper in the other colonies, but would have been carried by acclamation. However, as that was not likely to be the case now, although he maintained that the opposition to it did not represent the voice of the country, he should withdraw the motion.