

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

(Continued From the last Loyalist.)

FRIDAY, March 13.

PROVINCIAL LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Mr. PARTELOW agreed fully with all that had fallen from his Honor the Speaker; he regretted however, that not one of the hon. members for York were then in their places to answer the *true* libel upon Fredericton. The objections raised by the select Committee, and the public generally, against Saint John, were on account of the prevalence of fog at that place during the summer months; this he thought however could have no weight with the Committee. Another reason against Saint John was, that the hon. members for Charlotte kept a record against that place; they had Saint John charged with all the money granted to the Provincial Penitentiary, and other public works; and he supposed if £5000 was now granted to build an Asylum there, they would have that down too. If the Committee should finally conclude to grant the £5000, he thought that not more than £2000 of that sum would be required this year.

Mr. HANINGTON thought it highly necessary that something should be done. A large portion of the Lunatics now in the Asylum at St. John came from the adjoining Provinces, and he thought if a large Building was erected it would be filled with persons from the same quarter. He agreed with his Honor the Speaker that Buildings could be erected, & public establishments carried on at a much cheaper rate at Saint John than at Fredericton; he came to that conclusion from the manner in which Government money was expended about Government House, and other places; he thought that his Honor the Speaker had been too moderate in estimating the difference in favour of Saint John at thirty three and one third per cent; he (Mr. H.) thought that there was a difference of fully fifty per cent. The only way by which he could account for this was, Fredericton was small, in comparison with St. John, and consequently there was not that competition that existed in that place. He however felt anxious that the building should be erected somewhere—the sympathies of human nature would certainly prompt them to do all in their power for the comfort of this unfortunate class of individuals. In the mean time proper care should be taken to guard against the admission of too many of these unfortunate persons from the neighbouring Provinces; the Committee would bear in mind, that there was no establishment of this kind either in Canada, or Nova Scotia; these matters would all require to be regulated by enactment. He was in favour of erecting the building somewhere in the vicinity of Saint John, he thought it the most suitable place for many reasons; it was the largest and most populous City or Town in the Province, and the probability was, that the greatest number of Lunatics would be there. He thought that every County should be taxed to support its own Lunatics.

Mr. SIMONDS thought the hon. member from Westmorland, who had just sat down, had taken a very narrow and sectional view of the subject. He (Mr. Hannington) thought that because Saint John was a large place there must necessarily be the greatest number of Lunatics there. But this was no argument. He would ask that hon. member, what it was that made Saint John so large? was it not the trade of the Country? nine tenths of the whole Revenue was collected there, and where did it go to? did not Westmorland get its share? He would call that hon. member's attention to the grant to Tantram Marsh.

Mr. GILBERT thought that an Asylum was necessary, but the great difficulty seemed to be about the site. His Honor the Speaker thought that Poverty Hall was the most suitable place, on account of the benefit of Sea bathing, and also that the Building could be erected cheaper than at any other place. In this view his honor had been supported by the Honorable Chancellor of the Exchequer. [Laughter.] He thought they should fix on the most central situation; he did not like Saint John for many reasons; he considered Gagetown preferable to Saint John, the Sea bathing was equally as good as at Poverty Hall, and Building materials could be purchased as cheap there as at Saint John, and cheaper; there too the unfortunate persons would have the *best* view of a fine view. Two thousand pounds had been spoken of to purchase a site, this he thought too much; at Gagetown they could procure the ground without money and without price. Under all the circumstances he thought Gagetown would be the better site; but perhaps it would be as well to let it stand over until the next Session.

Mr. BOYD said it was highly necessary for the hon. members from Charlotte to put hon. members frequently in mind of the large sums of money which had from time to time gone to Saint John; it was too deeply engraven upon their memories to be so soon forgotten. As to the proper site for this Building—all writers upon this subject seemed to agree, that free air [not a foggy bog] and a fine view were necessary. The Building should be situated, not in a City, nor so far removed from one but that the unfortunate inmates could hear the distant hum of the workmen, the ringing of bells, and the yo-heave-ho of the sailors; all these things added together, had a tendency towards drawing the mind to contemplate the beauties of nature, and to relieve it of that settled melancholy which very frequently pervaded that unfortunate class of persons. He had long been of the opinion that the hill in the rear of Fredericton was the best situation in the Province; it combined all the requisites spoken of, and it would also be near the Assembly, where hon. members could have an opportunity of visiting the Establishment, and of making such regulations from time to time, as might be required.

Mr. W. H. STREET maintained the general necessity for such an Institution as that contemplated; and thought that the annual expenditure would not be great, as in other countries their cost was comparatively small. The hon. member from Queens had opposed it, wishing it deferred till the next Session; and would doubtless then endeavour to delay it a year longer; thus as was usual with him, laying a snare to his conscience to cover his opposition to the most necessary measures; but he (Mr. S.) hoped the hon. member would find himself alone on the present occasion. The great objects were, to select a suitable place for the Building; and also to pass some law to protect the Institution from the influx of Paupers and Lunatics from the neighbouring States and Colonies.

Mr. HILL wished to remind his hon. colleague [Mr. Boyd] that if the hum of distant noise, and the prospect of Shipping were requisite for the locality of a Lunatic Asylum, it should not be erected in the vicinity of Fredericton; unless the latter place were made a free Warehousing Port. On the contrary, all the requisites for such an institution—with the single drawback of its not being central—would be found in the vicinity of St. Andrews.

Mr. JORDAN wished hon. Members to approach the subject in a disinterested manner; and discuss the matter of location simply on its own merits: all local views should therefore be laid aside—[“hear, hear,” from Mr. Wilmot.] The building could not only be raised cheaper at St. John, but it could afterwards be supported for one half the expense which it would cost in Fredericton. St. John contained one third of the population of the Province, and contributed two thirds of the Revenue,—besides this, there was an annual influx of Emigrants to the number of 6,000, in that City, necessarily including numbers of the unfortunate class for whom the Asylum was intended; and it was therefore apparent that a great saving would be effected by avoiding the heavy charge which must be incurred by their transportation to any other part of the province.

Mr. J. A. STREET said there was no doubt but an Institution such as that alluded to was required some where in the Province, but it seemed the great point to settle was—where should it be placed? The Select Committee had recommended its erection at the Short Ferry—all the members

from St. John wished it placed in their vicinity; the gentlemen from St. Andrews recommended their own place—and doubtless the hon. Members from Restigouche would recommend its erection at the Bay Chaleur. To get clear of all those insurmountable difficulties, he (Mr. S.) would recommend another plan—namely, let the grant be made, such as the House might see fit; and let a resolution pass leaving the site entirely at the disposal of the Governor and Council. He would therefore move that instead of the proposal for the erection in St. John, the question be referred to the Executive Government. He likewise thought that the Building should not be a large one, as it would be afterwards expensive in proportion to its size.

Mr. END said the question had better be settled by the present committee; for even if it were referred to the Governor and Council, what pledge could the House have, that the Commissioners named by his Excellency would not be as partial as any others. The Institutions at Hartford and Worcester in the United States were both in the vicinity of Towns, and in his opinion no better place could be selected than the spot in St. John close by Mr. Whiteside's Cottage in the neighbourhood of the Provincial Penitentiary.

Dr. EARLE said the hon. Members had all desecrated local views; but he feared every one of them was more or less affected with the feeling which they deprecated. It would be supposed that he too might be selfish enough to wish its site below; but he looked solely to the future health and convenience of the unfortunate persons who would be its inmates; and taking this sole view irrespective of the trifling differences of expense, he would at once prefer Fredericton. He did not much admire the scenery of St. John, and even if there were fine scenery in that neighbourhood, it must generally remain unseen in consequence of the fog.

Mr. HILL observed that the scenery, climate, and other advantages of the neighbourhood of St. Andrews, were unequalled in the Province; the learned Doctor had never been in that vicinity, else, as a disinterested person, he would at once give the preference to that situation.

Hon. Mr. SIMONDS agreed with the learned Member who had just sat down, that the very best site in the province would be found at St. Andrews. Three of the select committee had recommended the site below Fredericton, and the other two would recommend no particular spot; and this he thought the best plan, as the whole affair might safely be left with the Executive, who would doubtless dispose of it, if required to do so, without referring it to any third party.

Mr. HILL said it was a reflection on the House, that after hon. Members had been unanimous in avowing St. Andrews the very best situation which could be found, they nevertheless were about to adopt the very worst spot which could be chosen.

Mr. WILMOT had no hesitation in saying that he was against the original resolution. He looked upon St. John as the very last place in the Province to build an establishment of this kind; there were certain indispensable requisites for an Asylum; there ought to be pure air, pleasant prospect, shady walks, and fine gardens, and how could either of these requisites be had at St. John amongst the rocks and fogs. Laying all local feelings to one side, he seriously hoped that an Asylum would now be built, the expense of such an undertaking should be a secondary consideration; the situation should be the first grand object. He thought St. Andrews as far as climate and every thing of that kind went, was perhaps the best situation in the Province; any place before St. John; what, he would ask would be the benefit of Dr. Lee's recommendation, that the situation should command a variety of scenery, a river or bay studded with crafts of different description, &c. which had been quoted by an hon. Member, if the Asylum was to be built at St. John? No matter how delightful the surrounding scenery might be, they could see nothing for the fog. He had no sectional feelings in the matter, let them choose the best possible situation, anywhere; only keep clear of the fogs and rocks of St. John. If it was to be built between St. John and Gagetown, he would choose Gagetown; if between St. John and Fredericton, he would choose Fredericton. The hon. and learned Member for Gloucester, (Mr. END) had eulogised the establishments of this kind which he had visited at Boston, Worcester and Hartford, in the United States, and he now turns round and makes an objection to Fredericton on account of the heat—why the heat was as great, if not greater, at either of the above places than it ever was at Fredericton. He (Mr. W.) called upon hon. Members to put all local prejudices under foot, and let them unite in erecting, (in the best possible situation) a building for the reception of this unfortunate class of individuals. With these views he should oppose the Resolution.

Mr. PAYNE said if he should declare for St. John, he should be accused of prejudice; this however, was not the case. In '36 a Committee had made a most excellent report upon this subject, recommending the building of an Asylum &c.; but notwithstanding all this, they were now as far from having an Asylum as they were then. He thought St. John preferable for many reasons, the services of Medical Gentlemen could be obtained at a cheaper rate, building materials were cheaper, and in fact the whole establishment could be carried on at a much less expense at St. John, than at Fredericton; and a site could also be purchased at a cheaper rate in the vicinity of Saint John. If, however, Saint John should not be chosen, perhaps St. Andrews would be the next best place; but St. Andrews was not clear of fog. The hon. and learned Member for York, (Mr. Wilmot) had talked about St. John being enveloped in fog half the time; he (Mr. P.) had never seen so much fog—he thought there was not more than 6 days of foggy weather there last season. It was also said that the Saint John fogs were unhealthy—he thought they were not so much so, as the morning fogs on the River, such fogs were extremely unhealthy. However he was not particularly wedded to any place; they had talked for ten years about building a Lunatic Asylum, and he now trusted they would not let another year pass without having at least commenced the building.

M. HANINGTON said that the report of the select Committee had anticipated the arguments that might have been brought to bear upon this subject; consequently there remained but little to be said. He trusted the Committee would now agree to build the Asylum somewhere; he was in favour of St. John for many reasons. (Here the hon. Member read from the Report of the Commissioners appointed to look out a site for an Asylum.) It would be seen that these gentlemen had spoken highly in favour of a situation near Poverty Hall; he thought somewhere in the vicinity of St. John would be preferable to Fredericton. Much had been said about the Saint John fogs, he thought however, the climate of St. John with all the fog, more healthy than that of Fredericton; it was so cold in the latter place in the summer mornings as to require a great coat, and so hot through the day that a white man could hardly live. Should the Committee be unable to fix upon a site, he thought it would be as well to leave it to the Governor and Council, and let the matter be decided without any more delay.

Hon. Mr. HAZEN said that the hon. and learned Member for York, (Mr. Wilmot) had dwelt very much upon the injurious effects of the St. John fogs; he (hon. Mr. H.) would read him the opinion of the Medical faculty of that City upon the subject. (reads.) The hon. Member would now see that it was the opinion of those gentlemen—gentlemen too who stood high in their profession, that those fogs were not unhealthy; and if hon. Members were not satisfied with this, let them look at him (Mr. H.) he had grown up amongst the fogs of St. John, and he thought no hon. Member would say that he had an unhealthy appearance. (Laughter.) There was also Mr. Smith, and the hon. Member for the County of St. John (Mr. Simonds) who had spent many years in the City of St. John; yet they enjoyed good health. (Laughter.) He would contrast their appearance with the appearance of the two hon. Members for York, (Messrs. Wilmot & Fish-

er,) and let hon. Members decide which party presented the most healthy appearance. (Laughter.)

Mr. BOYD said the Committee had just listened to a very learned dissertation on fog, as to its good or evil effects; the hon. and learned Member for the City of St. John, (hon. Mr. Hazen) had exhibited himself as a proof of its beneficial influences. (Laughter.) He (hon. Mr. Hazen) had also pointed to other hon. members as further proofs of his doctrine; these eminent gentlemen came from the same place, (laughter, and a cry of “tarred with the same stick.”) He (Mr. B.) was opposed to the Asylum being erected at St. John; he tho't some situation on the sea board preferable, if not, then he would go for Fredericton.

Mr. HILL said the great object to be effected was the restoration of the prostrated minds of this unfortunate class of individuals. (Hear! hear!) In consideration of this, all other objects should give way. He therefore trusted the Committee would look at the subject in its true light, and not suffer sectional feelings to lead them astray; let the building be erected some where with as little delay as possible.

Col. McLEOD was in favour of St. John for many reasons; one of which was the advantage of Medical assistance, there are plenty of Doctors in St. John. As to the fog about which so much had been said, he thought it seldom lasted more than a day at a time; (Mr. Wilmot—you mean three weeks) and the most delightful view in the world was, when the fog was clearing away. (Mr. Wilmot—you can see that at Fredericton any morning.) He (Mr. McLeod) thought Saint Andrews too near the border, the Asylum would be filled with persons from the other side. He thought £5000 too large a sum to be granted just now; let the building be commenced small at first, and in such a manner as that additions could afterwards be made, as occasion might require.

Dr. EARLE said the hon. and learned Member from St. John (hon. Mr. Hazen) had quoted the opinion of the Doctors of that City, as to the influence of fog upon the health of individuals; and he (Dr. E.) supposed it would be tho't presumption in him to attempt to differ from that opinion. He would however ask, where was the use of beautiful scenery, &c. when the fog was as thick as midnight darkness? He had seen the fog so thick in that City that the sun was completely hid from view for weeks. He would say without hesitation that St. John was the last place in the Province for such an establishment. If the Committee intended to Legislate for the benefit of a few individuals, let them decide in favour of Saint John; if for this unfortunate class of persons, Fredericton was the place.

Mr. FISHER made a few observations to the effect that he could not report himself as divested of all local feelings on the subject. It was plain that the projected building must be erected either in the vicinity of St. John, St. Andrews, or Fredericton; as to Gagetown, it was entirely out of the question. There was a Report from the Commissioners appointed by the Government to investigate this subject; but it was not predicated on the possible contingency of the building being placed in any other quarter than at Poverty Hall—it did not pretend to extend its enquiries any farther. It was rather odd, he would say, that the reason assigned for wishing to place the Asylum in the vicinity of St. John was, that it was most likely to receive the inmates from that quarter, a circumstance which he (Mr. F.) could not have anticipated. It would most undoubtedly be wrong to found any Legislation on the Report of the Commissioners; as they had not travelled to make themselves acquainted with the best site, nor did they pretend to investigate the subject beyond the length in which St. John was concerned. The heat, and land-fogs in the vicinity of Fredericton had been alluded to;—the latter he knew nothing about, for he never saw them, but it was in St. John, where the fog was almost permanent, that it became really disagreeable; and the heat in Fredericton seldom equalled that of Boston, where no inconvenience whatever was felt from that circumstance. Gloomy days were said to increase the tendency of gloom in the mind; and if this were the case, and he (Mr. F.) thought it was, no place could be selected less liable to the objection than Fredericton. The additional expense of erecting and supporting the Asylum at Fredericton had formed another objection; but he thought the sample of cheapness and economy already displayed in the management of the Asylum and Penitentiary in St. John, had not proved so satisfactory that it should be advanced as a pattern—at least if ten per cent. of the newspapers' reports were to be credited. He thought, however, that the expense both in St. John and Fredericton would be nearly equal, for medical, and other attendance would be procured on the same terms in both places.

Hon. Mr. HAZEN remarked that the learned member (Mr. Fisher) had placed his (Mr. Hazen's) observations in a wrong position—when he had alluded to the greater amount of inmates which St. John would probably furnish to the Institution, he only meant that there was a numerous population in that City, and that, in conjunction with the influx of emigrants, would as a matter of course furnish a large number of the unfortunate persons who would require assistance.

Mr. J. A. STREET here made a few observations; and the question was then taken on Mr. Partelow's amendment, which goes to make a grant for the vicinity of St. John.—The Resolution was carried on a division.

SATURDAY, March 14.

A Bill was brought in by Mr. Fisher, to quiet the Title of certain lands in Fredericton.

Mr. FISHER said he had brought the present Bill in order to quiet a doubt which had arisen during the past year relative to the title of the Town to certain Lands therein mentioned. It was strange that those doubts had never arisen until the place in question was required for the use of the Cathedral, but however that might be, the object of the present Bill was to include those grants which had been made within the last 20 years, and to make them legal. The Bill contemplated nothing further.

His Honor the SPEAKER said it was an important point for the consideration, that while the present Bill legalized those particular grants, it might not (by implication) lead to the conclusion that all similar grants were invalid also.

Mr. FISHER said he had only included the grant of Cornelius Aukerman and others, as being that upon which a doubt had recently been cast by the Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. HAZEN was in favour of the Bill, but he supposed, with his Honor the Speaker, that the passing of such a law would imply that all similar grants were defective in their titles.

His Honor the SPEAKER rejoined.—It would not be prudent to legislate upon doubts raised by the Attorney General or any other officer of the Crown, such a course would keep the House in a constant round of agitation.

Messrs Partelow, Wilmot, and Fisher followed in favour of the Bill; which was passed without further opposition.

MONDAY, March 16.

The House went into Committee of the whole on the Parish School's Bill, postponed from Thursday the 12th inst.

Mr. BROWN wished in the first place to correct an erroneous opinion which appeared to be entertained by some members of the Committee, to the effect that it was the intention of friends of the present Bill to break down altogether the old system now in operation in the Province. Nothing could be more at variance with matter of fact than this opinion. The object was, not to break down, but improve it (Here Mr. Brown read the instructions furnished to the Inspectors previous to the commencement of their labours, referring to the statistical knowledge to be obtained, and the particular as well as general sort of information to be sought for; and then went on to inform the Committee of the manner in which that duty had been performed, by citing particular cases.) He wished also to inform the Committee that it

was impossible for any man to inspect all the Schools, as had been intimated, in 3 months. The only object contemplated in the Bill was to elevate the indifferent or inefficient parish schools, to the same standard with the good ones—in short, to make the bad, good. In order to convince the Committee of the necessity for particular information, he would tell them, he had himself visited schools—one in Hillsborough for instance—where the schoolhouse was large and well furnished—the attendance good—the appearance of the Teacher prepossessing, and yet the whole concern was woefully inefficient. On the contrary he had within a few miles of that same place found a most miserable slab building, a poor looking schoolmaster, but an excellent school. Instead of entertaining for a moment the opinion, that the present system would be broken down, he would inform the Committee that they would be worse than madmen if they did not supply, or endeavour to supply, what was lacking in the present law, and he declared that his object was to raise, not break down, the present system of Education.

Mr. HANINGTON would own the truth of the observations made by the hon. mover of the Bill; but still he begged leave to call the attention of the Committee to the well known fact, that the select committee appointed during the last year to investigate, and examine the Report of the Inspectors of the Parish Schools, had sat from day to day, and were still unable to make themselves masters of the subject which they felt so anxious to understand. This led to the recommendation that one or more of the Inspectors should, during the recess, prepare and publish an abstract of the large report, to be laid before the House during the present Session. He could not however, say, that the difficulty was removed by the present abstract, for the required information had not even yet been placed before the Committee; nor did he think it would be obtained short of spending a week or two in ransacking the whole of the Report. The abstract did not tell the number of qualified Teachers in the Country, and this was a most important omission; for let hon. members say what they might, in its favour—and he was willing to give much credit to Mr. Gregory for the talent evinced in its composition—he (Mr. H.) could only guess his information from the general returns as signed by three commissioners.—In fact the abstract gave nothing to found a Bill on, for out of 500 schools, only 166 were there alluded to. What conclusion then could the House arrive at in reference to the rest? He wished to be understood, that the information was no doubt in the Committee room locked up in a trunk; but the Committee had it not—Mr. Wilmot—“You ought to have it in your hand.”—Well, it was impossible to get it at present in one's hand; and he would appeal to the hon. member whether the Select Committee had not last year acknowledged the difficulty, in the direction given to have an abstract prepared from it to be laid before the House in the present Session. Even the hon. member for York (Mr. Wilmot) had more theory than facts in his head; and however hon. members might boast of their knowledge of the subject, the facts were in the trunk. As an instance he would name that out of 500 Teachers receiving the Provincial allowance, only 47 were alluded to in the abstract. He (Mr. H.) would be willing to pass a grant for the purchase of school books, to be placed in the hands of Commissioners to see them properly distributed; and in order to secure all the knowledge necessary for Legislating on the subject, he would secure the services of the hon. member (Mr. Brown) or some other individual, for making a thorough abstract to be laid before the House in the course of the next session. He would also have information on the qualification of every individual Teacher on each distinct subject brought under notice, let it cost what it might. The hon. mover of the Bill had alluded to two schools, the one a good, and the other a bad one—this was easily accounted for.—In the district where he (Mr. H.) resided the people were generally pretty wealthy, and they were able to pay £60 per annum to a good Teacher; while in the neighbourhood of the other school, the people were all poor, and were forced to put up with the services of such as they could get. Here he thought the new Bill would operate unjustly; for instance, in a wealthy section of the country, where the people could raise £60, they would get £60 more from the Province, while in other parts, where they had the misfortune to be poor, they would meet with only a stinted allowance; and this would be manifest injustice. He concluded by moving that the Bill be postponed six months.

Mr. THOMSON rose and said he also would oppose it.—He was in favour of Legislating so much, and more especially on subjects which Legislation could not properly reach. The cause of the failure of the present School system would be found in the differences on subjects of Religion which unhappily existed in the Country. The children would not associate; and to such a pitch had this sectional feeling been carried, that some of them would think themselves contaminated by the slightest connexion with the others. This was not the case in Prussia, which had been named as an example for those Schools. There, there was one Established Religion and consequently a uniformity of thinking, which did away with the difficulty which existed here. Here then was the difficulty; in Prussia the people could be forced. In this Country they could not be persuaded even to a measure which involved their own welfare. But after all, what was the state of morals in Massachusetts? were they so much better than their neighbours, that they should be held up as a pattern for imitation? He thought not. Their youth would mostly be found to understand a little Chemistry and the use of the Globes; but generally very little of a useful nature. He (Mr. T.) would grant a small sum for a Normal School; and he would not oppose the introduction of a regular set of books; but beyond this he would let well enough alone; and he would forbear from agitating the public mind by the introduction of mere impracticable theories. Let the Sessions be induced to be more select in the appointment of Trustees; and let the rest be left to the disposal of the parents themselves, who were of course the parties most interested. He concluded by observing that a small grant given to the head of the Government would be a much wiser plan than any other which could be named for accomplishing the interested purpose.

Mr. J. A. STREET in rising observed, that the Bill was highly important, and reflected much credit upon its hon. mover. He (Mr. S.) fully agreed with that hon. member, that the present system admitted many serious evils; and that it required amendment. Referring to page 15 of the Abstract, he found the present rule for admitting Teachers so lax, that even Mormons were on the list, and thought it extremely dangerous that people of such principles should be employed in teaching the youth of the Country, and in fact injuring the cause of Christianity. It is in vain for the House to Legislate on the subject of Education, if the Board of Education would give certificates to persons as Schoolmasters who were evidently improper or incompetent. After however, hearing the arguments brought forward by the hon. member, (Mr. Brown) he would turn his attention to the Joint Report of the Inspectors; and here he would observe, that hon. members should be well satisfied that the recommendations in that Abstract were well founded, and would accomplish the object proposed, prior to their giving them their support. (Here the hon. member read several extracts from the Abstract, and then proceeded.) It appeared from the Report that the Legislature of New Brunswick made a larger grant for the purposes of Education than any other place with the same amount of population; but still the apathy of parents appeared to stand in the way of improvement; now it seemed that this same apathy was the very root of the evil complained of, and for this, the Bill did not suggest the only remedy which could be offered, namely, the principle of assessment. The Bill did not contemplate a greater charge on the Revenue; but it was impossible to carry out its provisions without additional cost—and to meet this increased charge there was no plan suggested. The hon. mover of the Bill had declared that its operation would not injure the present system, but that on the contrary it would amend it.