

I have no mind to the Barracks, we can get the Barracks looked after at a less cost than a hundred a year. I am not prepared to own that the Buildings cost a large sum because they were a necessity, but I do not wish them to be destroyed now. Although the Tenant League is held outside of this House, it has a little heaven inside. But we hope that the sword will be turned into a reaping hook, and that these Barracks may yet serve some peaceful and useful purpose. Possibly the building may be turned into a Normal School, goodness knows what is in store for us. If the Government can afford to give a hundred pounds a year for taking care of these Barracks, they can get them insured for a larger sum for the same money as they now pay the keeper. They can get as much insurance as they like, and, therefore, the buildings might be converted into an elegant edifice for Industrial Exhibitions for the whole Island. For these reasons we should keep it insured, and therefore I will press my motion.

On the subject, and show why certain individuals, called so much opponents to the Tenant League. I am sorry to mention the name of a gentleman who is so weak, for I do not like to bring in the name of a person who cannot reply. The Hon member (Mr. H.) had tried to prove that the troops were brought to this Colony on account of the doings of the League, but I can prove that they were brought here to serve the selfish ends of the Confederate party in the ranks of the late Government. I took the late Mr. Whelan's paper for a number of years before there were any signs of a disturbance, and I can show that, by his writings, he encouraged the formation of an association of this kind. And not only did Mr. Whelan do so, but a Colonial Secretary, appointed by the late Government, did the same. Mr. Whelan said that if a few poor devils resisted the law they would be put down, but if the whole body of the tenantry resisted in a mass, something would be done, and the Land Question would be settled. The editors of both the *Islander* and *Examiner* were then strong Confederates, and advocated these measures before the people thought of uniting for the purpose of obtaining free land at a reasonable cost. But whenever these two editors saw that the Tenant League declared against Confederation, they opened fire upon the association at once, and said that the troops must be brought here for the purpose of suppressing it. The late editor of the *Examiner* prophesied that an association would be formed, but when he found that it opposed Confederation, he declared that the late Government were quite justified in bringing the troops here for its suppression. But I do not intend to occupy the time of this hon House about this matter. I do not think these were the only causes for the opposition manifested towards the Tenant League, for I believe there were other causes. There was a long spell of tyranny and oppression, owing to the evils of the leasehold system, and the people were deluded by political demagogues, till at last they were out of patience, and determined to arise in their strength and act for themselves. I think the best thing the late Government could have done when their term of office had expired, was to send the troops away, and either to destroy the buildings or take them down and use the materials for some other purpose. As matters are at present, something else must be done with these Barracks; perhaps the best plan would be to turn them into a workhouse. But the building of them at all, under the circumstances, was a scandalous waste of the public money.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I do not intend to take much time in making a reply to some statements made by hon. members on the other side of the House. The hon. Leader of the Opposition has attempted to justify the bringing of the troops to this Colony, and gave as a reason for so doing, that Mr. Henderson and other gentlemen were in the Government at the time, and that the troops were not brought here for the purpose of disgracing the Colony, to get us forced into Confederation. But I believe a party in the late Government had those objects in view. There was a deep laid scheme among their supporters, which that Government were not fully aware of; this was to stir up the people as they did, and get them to believe that an extraordinary settlement of the Land Question was about to take place, then to completely disappoint the tenantry, and thus drive them to resist the laws, if possible. They would then have a pretext for sending for the troops, and would try to make the world believe that the Colony was not ca-

Mr. McNEIL.—I do not care about voting money for these Barracks, but they contain a good deal of valuable property which might be destroyed or carried away by well disposed persons if it is not placed under the care of a Keeper. I will support the resolution. As the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has tried to justify the building of the Barracks, I will make a few remarks