

Mr. Brown gave notice that, to-morrow, he would move that an Address be presented to His Excellency the Officer administering the Government with a respectful request, that he will obtain from the Commander of the Forces, a Return showing the pay and allowances from Her Majesty's Military Government, of the Officers and Privates of the 58th Regiment stationed in this Province.

Mr. Mackay, as Chairman of the Select Committee appointed to report on the expenditure on account of the General Assembly, moved for leave to postpone the bringing up the report of the Committee till to-morrow.—Leave given.

Mr. Sewell moved that the motion standing in his name, No. 5 on the Notice Paper of to-day, be considered in Committee of Supply.—Agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Wortley His Excellency's Message No. 22 ordered to be considered in Committee of Supply.

Mr. Carleton, with leave of the House, moved that the Pre-emption Land Claims' Bill be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of Messrs. Weld, King, Porter, Brown, Merriman, and Cutten.—Agreed to.

Mr. Wakefield, with the leave of the House, moved the following Resolutions, together with the motion standing in his name, for a future day, on the Notice Paper of to-day.

Whereas a Select Committee of this House, on Secondary Punishments, after taking abundant evidence on the subject, have reported that they think it their duty to observe that the vice of drunkenness is admitted to be the main cause of crime in this Colony—where the misery and temptations of poverty are hardly known—and without desiring to travel too far out of the limits of the enquiry referred to them, they cannot fail to express a hope that some Legislative measures may be adopted without delay, to avert the progress of this principal incentive to crime. And whereas it cannot be denied that habitual intemperance is a prevalent vice among the Colonist population of New Zealand; and the unceasing cause of degradation and ruin to individuals, and of misery to families. And whereas the vice of intemperance is known to be extending among the Natives by means of its prevalence among the Colonists. And whereas there can be no doubt that in this Country the vice of intemperance is greatly promoted by the facilities for its indulgence, by both Races, which are afforded by the present state and administration of the law with regard to the trade in spirituous and fermented drinks. And whereas there is reason for deeming it probable, that among those of the Colonists who habitually indulge in this vice, a considerable portion would hail with satisfaction any law designed to prevent them from gratifying their evil propensity, whilst their families would heartily rejoice at such legislation if it were effectual.

Therefore this House is of opinion; First,—That the question of restrictions on the trade in spirituous and fermented drinks is not one of political economy alone, to be viewed solely with reference to the principles of free trade, and of taxation for revenue; but is also one of morals which ought to be considered by the Legislature as affecting the people in their social habits and general welfare; and likewise as affecting the good name of the Colony.

Secondly,—That, nevertheless bearing in mind the Constitutional rights of the people, to be bound by no laws but such as are passed with their consent, by their Representatives; and considering also that the question of restrictions on the trade in spirituous and fermented drinks, was not specially in the thoughts of the people when they elected the present members of this House, the General Assembly cannot discreetly legislate on the subject, without allowing time for the people to express their opinions and wishes thereon, by means of Petitions to the Governor and both Houses of the Legislature.

Thirdly,—That if at the next meeting of the General Assembly, Petitions from a considerable majority of the people should be received, praying that the laws with regard to the trade in spirituous and fermented drinks, may be so altered as to hinder effectually the indulgence of intemperate habits, it will be the duty of this House to bestow its most serious consideration on the whole subject, with the view of giving prompt and real effect to the wishes of the people as expressed by such petitions.

Resolutions adopted.

Mr. Wakefield moved, seconded by Mr. Travers, the following Address to His Excellency:

The House of Representatives respectfully submit to the Officer administering the Government, some Resolutions passed by them concerning the prevalence of intemperate habits among the Colonist and Native Populations; and they pray that His Excellency may be pleased to direct, first, —that these Resolutions be published in the Government Gazette for general information; and secondly, that of the number of the Gazette which shall contain them, a thousand extra copies may be printed for circulation throughout the Colony.

Address adopted.