

Insular Legislature.

HOUSE OF KEYS.

In the House of Keys on Friday, the 17th, the "House of Keys Election Bill," with the proposals of the Council in respect to female suffrage, was further discussed. The Council agreed that female owners should have a vote but not occupiers, and the House finally gave way to this; but, on the motion of Mr Sherwood, seconded by Mr E. C. Farrant, the following resolution was passed:—

"Resolved,—that whilst accepting the proposition of the Council to confer the electoral franchise on female owners of real estate, and to exclude female occupiers, this House considers it right to record that their agreement to this proposal is solely with the object of securing the partial concession made by the Council towards female suffrage, instead of being compelled to lose the benefit of the proposed new Election Bill altogether; and that the opinion already expressed by the House that male and female occupiers are equally entitled to vote, remains unaltered."

TUESDAY.

An adjourned meeting of the House was held on Tuesday, there being present Messrs Goldie-Taubman (Speaker), W. B. Christian, E. C. Farrant, R. Penketh, P. H. Leseo, R. Heare, W. Farrant, J. Watterson, W. Dalrymple, J. Joughin, A. C. Kayll, T. Clucas, R. Corlett, J. J. Gell, J. Kelly, J. Brooke, R. Rowe, R. Kerruish, R. Sherwood, and J. Quayle.

VALUATION OF MINES FOR RATAL.

The Governor having requested a conference on this bill, Messrs Sherwood, Clucas, Dalrymple, Christian, and E. C. Farrant were deputed, and on returning,

Mr Christian said the Governor and Council had placed in the hands of the deputation a "Bill to Amend the Law respecting the Liability and Valuation of Mines for the purposes of Rates and for other purposes," which had been carefully prepared by the Council and had been submitted to the Crown and had been accepted in its present condition. If the House had no objection it would facilitate the matter if the standing orders were suspended and the bill was read and passed to-day. The Council had called attention to the only point on which the House it was thought might have some hesitation, namely, sec. 8, with respect to the rating of Crown property; and the Council explained that in the case of Crown property tenanted the occupiers would pay, and that in all other cases, though the Crown did not hold itself legally liable, the Crown would pay a portion, say, if the rate was £10, the Crown would pay £9 18s 6d.

Mr Brooke objected to the standing orders being suspended for this purpose.

Mr Christian said it might influence the House if they knew that it was explained by the Council that the only reason for asking the House to pass this bill with such haste was that if the House did not see their way to pass the bill in its present position it would involve going back to London and cause delay.

Mr Clucas explained that if the bill was not passed it would not be promulgated before the dissolution, and then probably the Island would lose a year's rate which would be given in respect to the Crown property. This bill, as his Excellency explained, had been carefully considered, and there had been a deal of correspondence with the Treasury. All they would get under this bill would be clear profit to the country. He moved that the standing orders be suspended in order that the bill should be read a second time.

Mr W. Farrant seconded, considering that if ever there was a bill in regard to which the House might dispense with the usual formalities, it was this, which would enable them to obtain what they had often demanded in vain.

The motion for suspending the standing orders and proceeding with the bill was agreed to, Mr Brooke's being the only vote against.

The bill was then read and passed in a few minutes. Messrs Joughin, E. C. Farrant, Clucas, and W. Farrant were deputed to confer with the Council on the Burials Bill.

TYNWALD COURT.

Present the Lieut.-Governor, the Bishop, Deemster Drinkwater, Deemster Dumbell, the Attorney-General, the Receiver-General, and the Vicar-General.

EXTENSION OF THE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Deemster Drinkwater in giving notice of a motion with respect to the Lunatic Asylum said that by an Act which was promulgated in April last it was enacted that whenever it may be necessary to borrow on the security of the annual rate available under the provisions of the Lunatic Asylum Act, the committee of management are authorised to borrow such sums of money as the Tynwald Court may from time to time authorise. It would be in the recollection of the Tynwald Court that some time ago before certain alterations were arranged at the Lunatic Asylum the Court came to a resolution to allow those alterations, and it was agreed that

... must the committee should go on and carry out the plans. Certain sums were named and the Court went so far as to vote that of half of the money should come out of the insular revenue, and a large sum had been received by the committee. It had become necessary for the committee to borrow an equal sum to that which had been paid out of the rates in order to pay for the alterations which were going on and would be completed almost immediately. In order that the Tynwald Court should not be taken by surprise, notice of such resolution must be given at some previous Court, at least one month before passing such resolution; therefore it was now his duty, not to ask for the vote, but to give notice that at the next Court the committee would propose a resolution authorising the borrowing on the security of the rates of the sum of £1,300. In 1879 the Tynwald Court came to the resolution that the sum of £400 be voted out of the insular customs revenue, being one moiety of the cost in excess of the original estimate for the Asylum, and that £900 be charged upon the insular customs revenue toward paying one moiety of the cost as approved by the Court on the 27th Nov., 1879. The committee wanted to borrow again, and at the next Court, not less than a month after this date, they would ask for sanction to borrow for the alterations and improve-