

employ him to report speeches all on one side. (Hear.)

The SPEAKER said he had been given to understand that there were no persons admitted in the Reporters' Gallery but those who were admitted by the reporters themselves.

Mr. SLADEN said the Government shorthand writer had had no connection with the report of his financial statement which he made in December last. When important speeches, like a financial statement, are made it was the usual practice for the members making them to take an opportunity of reading over the reporters' notes and satisfying themselves that they were substantially correct. On the occasion referred to he had omitted to do so, and on noticing some inaccuracies and omissions in the reports he had communicated with the editor of one of the journals, and requested a slip, that he might revise some of the statements in accordance with what he thought he had spoken. This request was courteously acceded to, and he was by this means enabled to publish a correct financial statement of the affairs of the colony.

Mr. BARAGWANATH expostulated with hon. members for taking up the time of the House on such small matters. The sooner they went on with the business of the country the better.

Mr. FELLOWS here withdrew his motion.

Mr. ADAMSON said he hoped honourable gentlemen on the other side would see the propriety of sending a request to the reporter to take both sides.

Mr. O'SHANASSY said he did not desire any special advantages for himself. If the House wished to take up the matter, any rule which was adopted would be respected by him. The hon. and learned member for the city had asked why a staff of reporters had not been employed, if one was not sufficient; but the reply was, that there was no provision on the estimates for such a purpose.

Mr. MICHIE: Nor was there any sum on the estimates for the present purpose, to which the shorthand writer is devoted exclusively.

The subject then dropped.

DEBATE RESUMED.

Mr. HEALES said, with reference to the remarks of the hon. member for South Grant (Mr. Haines), he would say that in general he agreed in the abstract principle of "measures, not men," but to that principle as a rule he took exception on the present occasion, on the ground that he should refuse to give his ear to a bad servant, when that servant had proved himself to be unworthy of confidence. The objectionable men in the present Ministry, he agreed with the mover of the motion, were the Chief Commissioner of Public Works and the Treasurer. One of them had already been a servant of the State, but had not enjoyed the confidence of the State; indeed he had done such things as had made him occupy the position of a bad servant, and had been driven

to leave his place, because the country had no confidence in him. When such was the case, even when such men in whom the country had no confidence brought forward a good policy they were not entitled to raise the cry of "measures, not men." No exception had been taken to the policy of the Chief Secretary, and he (Mr. Heales) believed that the policy he had enunciated would meet with the support of that House; but no confidence was to be reposed in the men whom he had gathered around him that they would carry out their promises, for he believed that they would do as they had done before—break confidence. If a good policy was to be carried out it should not be by men who did not possess the confidence of the country. The Ministry had been tried out of doors, and, however the House spoke, the country had spoken most unmistakeably. (No, no). He said yes, most unmistakeably; for wherever the issue had been tried, the result had been a verdict of no confidence in the Ministry. He regretted the unfortunate position in which Mr. O'Shanassy was placed, and placed solely because he had failed in rallying the right men about him. Promises were too often made to be broken, and when men had shown in their past public life that they were unworthy of the confidence of the country, it was too much to ask the House to support the policy, be it ever so good, of such men. (Hear.) The Ministry, too, had not acted in such an irreproachable manner as a Ministry should have acted, for every personal influence which a Ministry could bring to bear was brought to bear on the late election for East Bourke; and if the Ministry had so far prostituted their power in this matter they did not deserve the confidence of that House. After the polling-places for East Bourke had been gazetted an attempt was made by a Minister not in the House on that occasion to obtain extra polling-places. For this purpose he went to the Returning Officer and brought the matter under his consideration. The Returning Officer replied that if all the candidates were willing he would represent the matter to the Government, and get the extra polling-places established, but the Minister never went to the other candidates, but to his friends in the Ministry, and within forty-eight hours before the polling took place a polling-place was created in a certain locality where the Minister obtained an advantage over his competitors. Such a course was unfair and undignified, and such as a British statesman would not submit to. (A laugh, and "Hear, hear.") This might appear to be a very small matter, but it showed what the Ministry would do, for a straw oftentimes showed which way the wind blew; and it behoved them to look if a Ministry would condescend to dabble in this way with the purity of election (No!) how far the ballot-box was safe. He confessed that he was somewhat amused at the style which the Chief Secretary had adopted, of calling his Ministry "the people's Ministry." He (Mr. Heales) wanted to know what right he had to call the Ministry "the

people's Ministry," for in every case in which the people had exercised their right of veto they had emphatically decided against the Ministry. (No, no.) And even the suspicion which attached to a candidate of being connected with the present Ministry was enough to keep him out of the seat. He did not stand there as the representative of either the past or the present Ministry, but he wanted to see a Ministry in power which possessed the confidence of the House and the country, instead of the miserable exhibition which he observed on that (the ministerial side), as compared with that (the opposite side). When he saw the Treasury benches respected, then he should believe that the right men were in the right places. The late Ministry entered the House with their full complement, and had been returned by the people; but after all the attempts of the present Ministry, they had only succeeded in obtaining a bare quorum. They ought to go in not for a Ministry which could but barely support its position, but one which possessed the confidence of the House. (Hear.) The Chief Secretary had made an allusion which he (Mr. Heales) took to apply to himself, as he had but recently entered the House. It had been said that the cry of "No Popery" had been raised against the Ministry, but during the late election for East Bourke such a cry had never been raised by him, or by any other person but the Ministerial candidate of the present Government, the Commissioner of Trade and Customs; and he believed the Chief Secretary also had been trying to create political capital out of this cry; and the former gentleman had stated at one of his meetings in the East Bourke district that Mr. O'Shanassy was opposed because he was a Roman Catholic. The Ministry were opposed, however, on fair political grounds, and not on religious principles, notwithstanding the attempts which Mr. Greeves made to convince the people that the opposition rested on religious grounds alone. The Ministry had made an attempt to prove themselves martyrs, but he (Mr. Heales) put in his protest against the Chief Secretary dying as a martyr; for in a free country like this he could not see any necessity for such a course. (A laugh) The attempt to prove that the Protestant party had been actuated by other than fair motives was more than he had expected, for if the Roman Catholics had only received support according to their numbers, they would not be represented in that House so fully as they were — for the Protestant party, and very properly too, supported Roman Catholic candidates. This attempt to divide society he condemned, as an unfair means for the accomplishment of an end. (Hear, hear.) On the question of immigration, if he understood the Chief Secretary's remarks, he was not in favour of the scheme introduced by the late Government; but if he understood the way in which a man gave in his adhesion to a measure in that House it was by giving his vote. After the vote which the Chief Secretary had given on the question, it

was too bad for him, he thought, to repudiate the part he had taken in bringing the immigration measure into existence. (Cheers.)

Mr. O'SHANASSY said perhaps it would be convenient for him to make a statement on the subject to which the hon. member who had just resumed his seat had referred. He had not stated that he opposed the *whole* immigration scheme of the late Government, but that he opposed the English agency system. Finding, however, that the House was almost unanimous in favour of the agency proposed, he assisted as well as he could in perfecting that measure.

Mr. EMBLING supported the motion, and said they were in the extraordinary position of possessing a Government boasting itself to be the people's Government, which was actually repudiated by the people. The Government represented the enormous number of 4,000 electors out of the entire population of Port Phillip. The House was asked to support measures apart from possessing any confidence in the men introducing the measures; they might have confidence in the Chief Secretary, but that gentleman had made a mistake in allying himself with such men as he had. The Opposition party had been taunted with factiousness; but the present Government had shown the most factious conduct towards the late Ministry, and had tried by all the means in their power to turn them out. He (Mr. Embling) was present at one of the first meetings held at the commencement of the session, when it was determined on to put the Ministry out as soon as possible. He would like to ask the hon. gentlemen, the Chief Secretary, if he thought he fairly represented the twenty-eight members who voted in the majority against the late Government. His (Mr. Embling's) belief was that the majority of that number never intended their vote as one of no confidence in the late Ministry, but merely as a check on the system of unauthorised expenditure. It had been stated that the people were in favour of the Ministry, but the ministerial candidates had been rejected in Melbourne, in St. Kilda, in Brighton, and East Bourke: at all of which places the damning fact of a connection with the Government was sufficient to secure the defeat of the candidate. At the election for the Murray a gentleman was brought forward in opposition to Mr. Goodman, by a gentleman on the other side (the ministerial), and received one vote — that of Mr. Snodgrass himself. At Castlemaine, one of the candidates denied, as a calumny, the insinuation that he was connected with the Government; indeed whenever the population had been consulted, the verdict was against the Ministry; and he believed that if ten days longer had been given to the country to consider the question, not one man of the Ministry, would have been returned. (Oh.) They have appealed to Cæsar, and they would receive their answer that night. Suppose the Haines Administration had appealed to the country and had only succeeded in obtaining the return of a bare quorum, what would have been the cry raised by the present