

escaped, and to remedy this it was proposed that in cases of the violation of the liquor law, the decision of two magistrates should be final and unappealable.

The motion was carried.

#### TOWN OF WHITBY.

Mr. McLEOD introduced a bill to amend the act, 18 Vic., to incorporate the town of Whitby, and define the limits thereof.

#### REGISTRARS.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD introduced a bill respecting the Registrars' Registry offices, and the registration of instruments relating to land in Upper Canada.

#### CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD before moving the third reading of the Bill to establish a Consolidated Revenue Fund, proposed to add to the 4th clause the following amendment, in accordance with the promise made to the member for South Bruce the other evening:—"And whenever the exigencies of the public service may render it necessary or expedient to convert the same into money, shall sell and dispose of the same—first giving one month's notice in the *Official Gazette* of the Province of Ontario, and of the Dominion of Canada—calling for tenders for the purchase of the stock or debentures in which such surplus be invested."

The amendment was adopted—read a second time—and the Bill, as amended, was read a third time and passed.

#### SUPPLY.

Hon. Mr. WOODS motion—"That a Supply be granted to Her Majesty," was allowed to stand over.

#### OVER-HOLDING TENANTS.

Hon. Mr. WOOD moved the second reading of this bill, respecting over-holding tenants, in order to refer it to a special committee. The main feature of the measure was, he explained, simply this: In the measure in the statute book, the operation of the act was confined to tenancies certain for one month only, or one quarter. But it had been found very inconvenient not to extend the act to tenancies which might be determined by notice; and the main feature of the bill before the house was simply to extend the provisions of the act to these small tenancies. The act would very much simplify proceedings in county courts, and save a good deal of expense in actions of ejectment in the old way.

Mr. BLAKE said he was not aware there were any objections to the bill; but it had only been distributed, and the House had been so often lectured on the necessity of proceeding cautiously, it might be well to be careful in this instance also, and, before proceeding further, allow time for the consideration of the bill.

Hon. Mr. WOOD acceded to the suggestion, and the bill was allowed to stand over.

#### PRISON INSPECTORS.

On motion of Hon. J. S. McDONALD, the House went into Committee of the Whole on the bill respecting Prison Inspectors. The Attorney General explained that these Inspectors were now officers of the Dominion, and as the people of Ontario were determined to keep the supervision of their affairs in their own hands, an inspector would be appointed to do this work.

Sir HENRY SMITH said that in this matter the Government were taking a step in the right direction. So far as his experience went, these Inspectors, instead of being the means of improving the gaols, were generally brought into collision with the County Councils, and did mischief in that way. He held that a committee of the County Council was the best to look after these gaols.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD did not agree with the hon. and gallant knight that the County Councils would be the best parties to look to the gaol management. Speaking for his own part of the country, he would say that such a course would be a dangerous one indeed. Besides, County Councils were very paralytic generally.

Sir HENRY SMITH—Not so bad in that respect as the hon. the Premier himself. (Laughter).

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said that as the Government intended to bring down a scheme which would effect the whole administration of justice, all the points raised would be considered.

The bill was carried and the committee rose and reported it without amendment. Bill ordered for a third reading to-morrow.

#### PUBLIC LANDS.

Mr. PARDEE moved an address to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor for a return, showing in detail all the surveyed lands unsold and now owned by the Province of Ontario; giving the number of the lots and concessions, with the names of the townships and counties in which the said lands are situated. The mover explained that he had made this motion some weeks ago, but had been requested to allow it to lie over. Now, he brought it forward again and hoped Government would furnish the information. He did not assume that they could do so this session; but the information might be obtained during the recess and brought down to the house next session.

Mr. HAYS was in favour of the address, and hoped the mover would add to it a request for a return of the lands taken up, but since vacated. There was large sections of the land in his constituency in this way. He did not believe it was in the power of the Commissioner to get through all the work required of him in this and other ways, and would suggest that a commission be appointed to take the matter up.

Mr. LAUDER said that in his Riding there was also a great deal of land which had been occupied, but which had been vacated. On this land settlers would go, but that they were afraid that the large arrearages of taxes due would make the lots too costly.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS had no objection to the return, save the expense and trouble it involved. No doubt, as had been mentioned, there were large quantities sold on which over two or more instalments had been paid, and then they were abandoned. Some of these lands had been forfeited, and with respect to the others, it was the intention of the Crown to go through all the counties and deal with the cases; of course they would have to give notice to parties to pay up, or else their land would be forfeited.

Mr. COYNE thought it would be wise if some independent persons were appointed by Government to deal with the disputed Crown Land claims. A Court of Claims, or some authority independent of the Commissioner ought to decide on such claims, and not allow the Commissioner of Crown Lands to be overburdened with them.

Mr. HAYS thought that these claims would be best settled in some such way as the honourable member for South Bruce had proposed.

Mr. McKIM believed it was the intention of the Commissioner to deal with these claims fairly; but it was quite impossible for him to give them the attention they required. He thought the Government should at once take possession of the lands held by speculators, and sell them. The labour of the poor settlers in making roads was yearly improving the value of these lands, while their holders raised their prices, and kept them back from settlement.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS, as to the disputed claims referred to by the member for North Huron, said his experience was that it was impossible to arrive at the merits of a case of that kind by the affidavits sent to the department. If the Commissioner of Crown Lands, or an officer appointed by him, were to visit the different counties, and investigate the claims on the spot, taking the evidence of the various parties, he believed it would be easy to settle the claims. He intended, in a bill hereafter to be introduced, to make such a provision.

Mr. McOALL (Norfolk) expressed himself in favour of leaving the settlement of these claims entirely in the hands of the Commissioner.

The motion was agreed to.

On motion of Hon. J. S. McDONALD—

The House adjourned at ten minutes to five.