

covering them all would be introduced by the Government.

Hon. Mr. WOOD would not oppose the Bill. For his part, he would be happy to sit there for a year and assist in the passage of Bills of this nature, for the promotion of the education of the youth of the country.

Sir HENRY SMITH was proud to hear that statement from the hon. member who had last spoken; and he (Sir Henry) was, for his part, disposed to support any measure such as this, no matter what creed was affected. As to the question of Government grants, he hoped the administration would be found to come down with the usual grants for such institutions as that before the House. They would do themselves honour by taking such a course. All he (Sir Henry) asked by this measure was, that the people of Ontario should have a similar Act to that which had been granted the people of Huron. It was said that there should be no legislation until a general measure had been introduced—

Hon. Mr. WOOD—You cannot frame a bill to meet all the circumstances of each case.

Sir HENRY SMITH said that what the hon. the Treasurer said was true. Every single body asking an Act of incorporation had peculiar ideas of their own; and it would be by no means an easy task to frame a general Act. In the case of this measure everything requisite had been done. Due notice had been given—the requisite fee had been paid—and yet it was opposed by his hon. and Protestant friend—(laughter)—the member for South Simcoe. It was opposed, not because it was wrong, but simply because it was not brought in under some general Government measure.

Mr. FERGUSON reiterated the statement that he opposed the measure merely because of the principle at stake, and felt that had he not spoken on that occasion he would never again have been able to open his mouth on the subject.

Mr. GREELY fully concurred in what had been advanced by the mover of the bill. Many persons not belonging to the Church of England had subscribed towards the establishment of that college; and a county council in that section—most of them differing from the bishop of the diocese in religious opinion—had given a grant to it.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said there had been no discussion on this subject since the house opened. The reading of the bill by the chairman in committee of the whole was the first time the house had heard its provisions—for up to the present stage, all the work in advancing the bill had been done by special committee. It came into the house for discussion for the first time then; and hence he was glad that the subject had been opened up by the hon. member for South Simcoe. The real principle—as he conceived it—was, should corporations of this kind hold large quantities of land not absolutely required for pleasure grounds, gardens, or buildings. The first clause provides as follows:—

“1 That the said College, which shall be composed of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Ontario, for the time being; the very Rev. James Leptor, the Dean; and the Venerable Henry Patton, L. L. D.; the Archdeacon of the Diocese of Ontario; the Rev. C. J. Boswell, D. C. L.; the Rev. W. Bicknell, M. A.; the hon. John Hamilton, (Hawkesburg); James A. Henderson, D. C. L.; J. P. Downes; James Cartwright, B. A.; Philip Low, Q. C.; F. McCannery; W. B. Simpson; G. A. Kirkpatrick, B. A.; Godfrey Baker, Esq., and the Head Master and their successors shall be and is hereby constituted a body politic and corporate in deed and in name, by and under the name of—“The Corporation of Ontario College,” and by that name shall have perpetual succession and a common seal, and by such name may from time to time and at all times hereafter, purchase, acquire, hold, possess and enjoy, and may have, take and receive, for them and their successors, to and for their actual use and occupation only, any lands, tenements and hereditaments, and real and immovable property and estate within this Province, so as the annual value of the same does not exceed eight thousand dollars; and the same may mortgage, sell, alienate and dispose of, whenever they may deem it proper to do so; and the corporation may further acquire any of her real estate or interest therein, so as the same does not exceed the annual value of five thousand dollars, by gift, devise or bequest, and may hold such estate and interest therein for a period of not more than seven years, and the same or any part or portion thereof or interest therein which may not within the said period have been alienated or disposed of, shall revert to

the party from whom the same was acquired, his heirs or other representatives, and the proceeds of such property as shall have been disposed of during the said period may be invested in the public securities, county municipal debentures, mortgages, or other approved securities, for the use of the corporation.”

Now, the effect of that clause was to permit this corporation to hold land everywhere. Of course, large quantities would be occupied by tenants and it would at once be seen that the corporation thereby possessed itself of considerable political power. Their tenants might then be compelled to vote as was desired. (Hear, hear). He would ask whether it would not be most advisable that the surplus of the liberal contributions to these institutions should be converted into the securities of the Province—an investment such as would free these corporations from the suspicion that they wanted to get hold of large quantities of real estate. He had no objection to the bill, but thought it right to call attention to these facts. Hon. gentlemen would require to be very careful in this species of legislation; for they could not forget that other legislatures in Canada had had a long struggle against the extension of such charters as these. Having said so much, he was free to add that the object of the present measure was praiseworthy and so long as they proposed to do it at their own expense, he thought the Legislature should afford them every facility. He could not quite agree with the hon. member for South Simcoe, that a general bill should be brought in to include these measures; for under such a measure a Bill for the establishment of even a Mormon college might be got up. (Laughter) All these parties ought, he thought, to come to the house, and let each measure be discussed on its own merits.

Mr. McKELLAR said it was very important that hon. gentlemen should look closely to the provisions of this Bill. If, as had been asserted by the Hon. Attorney General, this Bill enabled the corporation to hold lands in all parts of the Province, then it would be contrary to the principle laid down and acted on for a number of years past. For a number of years they had great difficulties with their Lower Canada friends on this point—the ecclesiastics of Lower Canada desired power to hold lands in mortmain all over the Province, while the representatives of Western Canada had all along contended that such corporations should only be allowed to hold such lands as were required for use and occupation. Again, the representatives of Western Canada succeeded, after a long struggle, in inserting a provision similar to that in the measure before the house, that any lands bequeathed to these institutions should only be held for a given number of years, or otherwise that they would revert to the heirs of the parties bequeathing them. For his part, he was prepared to accord this institution all the powers given to others of the same nature. At the same time, this being the first measure of the kind before the house, hon. gentlemen should be very guarded. In order to give time to members to examine this important measure more thoroughly, it would be better that the committee should rise and ask leave to sit again. With respect to a general measure of incorporation, it was one which would be very desirable and one which it was quite possible the Government might frame. There was one point alluded to by the hon. and gallant knight from Frontenac from which he (Mr. McKellar) begged to dissent, and that was with reference to sectarian grants. This was not the time to discuss that question; but he would say that he believed the Government could not come down with any estimate of the kind which would meet with the approval of the house and the country. (Hear).

Mr. SCOTT could not see that any postponement of the measure was needed. The lands acquired by the corporation were to be employed solely in the maintenance of the college and the promotion of its objects. They did not, clearly, want vast tracts.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD—They want to hold property to rent it.

Mr. SCOTT did not think so.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD inquired what was meant then by the word “rent” in the Bill?

Hon. Mr. WOOD explained that it meant this: If the hon. the Premier donated one hundred acres of land to the institution, they might rent it till they could sell it.

Sir HENRY SMITH urged that members should hurry the legislation as much as they could. Some 50 private bills had been referred, and out of these only 5 had been got through with.

Mr. CUMBERLAND had heard the re-