

Commissioner of Crown Lands
How off interest due on lands at his own
measure, or at the suggestion of any hon.
member. He (Mr. Richards) would not be
a party to carrying out such a system."

It was wrong, then, notwithstanding the
hon. gentleman's speech that afternoon.
Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD and Mr.
WOOD—Go on.

Mr. BLAKE—I am going on. (Laughter.)
"The only way to settle it in a satisfactory
manner was to appoint inspectors, who could
deal with the matter impartially."

Were they to have inspectors now?
Mr. RICHARDS—I tell the hon. gentle-
man that we are to have inspectors. (Hear.)

Mr. BLAKE maintained that nothing
should be done except on the report
of the inspector, the Government assum-
ing the responsibility when acting on his
report; and if dissatisfied with it they should
have the power of ordering a new one to be
taken. They ought to have this in the resolu-
tions before them. It was a difficult and
delicate question for the House to have to
deal with. They must recollect the cases of
a large number of settlers who had paid for
their lands, and they must take care that
they did not legislate in such a way as to
be unjust, or excite any feeling in the
minds of the older settlers that injustice has
been done. Full justice and liberality in
everything necessary for fair and liberal deal-
ing between the Crown and the new settler,
he was confident the older settlers would
agree to and endorse; but they will be ex-
tremely jealous of the provisions which
would give the Government, without any
ratio decidendi or basis upon which to decide,
the power, at its own pleasure, to remit the
interest of a million and a half dollars, or re-
mit the principal also in some cases. He
held they were entitled to demand that there
should be full security that there should be
no injustice done. The resolutions, or the
measure founded on them, would require ser-
ious amendment; and a distinct pledge, or
guarantee, would have to be given by the
Government that they would fairly and im-
partially exercise the power granted to them.
He concluded by referring to the changes
which had taken place in the views of the
Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands, the
Attorney-General and the Treasurer, all of
whom had once considered that the country
was governed very corruptly, though the
conversion of the latter two had taken place
at a later day.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said he had never changed
his opinions. However, the past was past,
and we had now to deal with the present.

Mr. BLAKE—And the future.

Hon. Mr. WOOD proceeded to refer to
some remarks of the hon. member for South
Bruce at the Reform Banquet in the Music
Hall, when he had pointed, as an example to
the young men of the country, to one who
had committed murder and was guilty of
treason to his country and to his God.

Mr. McKELLAR rose to a point of order.
The hon. gentleman was referring to remarks
not made in the House.

Hon. Mr. WOOD intimated that he had
only followed the example of the leader of
the Opposition.

Mr. BLAKE said he had simply criticised
the public conduct of hon. gentlemen in the
House.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said if the hon. gentle-
man wished to go into a history of the past,
and would give notice, he for one was pre-
pared to meet him and have a field day of it.
(Laughter) He had always thought the
land question was surrounded with great diffi-
culties, and it was impossible to lay down a
general principle by which justice could be
done to all the settlers of the wild
lands. Many of the Crown lands sold
in 1855 and 1856, were in the poorer
portion of the peninsula, and brought
high prices in view of their fertility.
But the school lands had been selected by
the Commissioner, personally, from the best
townships in the garden of Canada. The
attack on the Commissioner of Crown
lands, in reference to the Grammar School
lands, had failed entirely.

Mr. BLAKE—Because he caved in.
(Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. WOOD said the Commissioner
had not considered it worth while to include
the Grammar School lands, because he
thought they were so exceedingly small.

Mr. BLAKE—He ought to have known
better.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said the Commissioner
had found out there were considerable ar-
rears due on these lands, and Government
had determined to include them in the resolu-
tions. He thought it behoved the hon.
gentleman opposite (Mr. Blake) to be more
cautious in speaking of this question than he
was upon a former one, when he referred to
the award of the arbitrators.

Mr. BLAKE raised a point of order. The
hon. gentleman had no right to refer to a
former debate.

Hon. Mr. WOOD maintained that he had
such a right, and that it was the custom in the
English Parliament. In fact, the hon. gentle-
man had referred to another debate.

Mr. BLAKE—But that was the debate of
another session.

Hon. Mr. WOOD—To be strict, the hon.
gentleman has no right to read from the
news papers at all.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—Yes, he had;
it was from THE GLOBE. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. WOOD mentioned the member for
South Bruce to be cautious in speaking of
these matters. He had not made much
out of the Grammar School lands. As to
the Common School lands, the price was
fixed, there was no competition; the price
being two dollars per acre. But one-fourth of
this sum was returned, so that the purchaser
paid only a dollar and a half. He would ask
the hon. member for South Bruce if he knew
of a single portion of the school lands in that
county that was not worth \$2 an acre.

Mr. BLAKE—I do.

Mr. SINCLAIR—I have no doubt a large
portion of the school land in Bruce is
worth \$2 an acre, but some of it is not worth
\$1 50.

Mr. WOOD went on to say that the

school lands in Bruce were among the richest
in the Province. If any of it now unsold was
put up at auction he ventured to say the hon.
member for North Bruce would bid more
than \$1 50 for it. If the facts he had stated
were true, did it become the hon. member
for South Bruce to stir up a feeling of dissa-
tisfaction throughout the country merely for
the sake of making a little political capital
out of it? The hon. gentleman seemed to
find some difficulty between arrears of prin-
cipal and of interest.

Mr. BLAKE—Not at all; they are treated
differently in the resolutions; that is what I
complain of.

Mr. WOOD—I suppose the Commissioner
has his own reasons for that. (Laughter)
The principle that applies to one class of ar-
rears certainly applies to the other.

Mr. BLAKE—Then alter the resolutions
accordingly.

Mr. WOOD—The question is, how much
is the land worth over and above a reasonable
allowance for improvements, and considering
also the profits derived from the occupancy
of the land? Is it worth \$1 50 an acre? If
so, then the whole of the land should be
struck down to that sum; if it is \$5, fix it
at that.

Mr. BLAKE—It is to be regretted that
there was not a meeting of the Executive
Council before these resolutions were brought
before the House. (Laughter.)

Mr. WOOD—I leave that matter to the
Commissioner. The Commissioner must deal
with these school lands as he deals with dis-
puted questions in reference to any other
lands. He must find out all the facts of the
case, the nature of the soil in each instance,
the location, and all other points that
determine the value of land before he comes
to a decision. And then all the papers con-
nected with each case would be in the records
of the Commissioner's office, and could at
any time be examined by Parliament. It
should be remembered that Lower Canada
was interested, to a certain extent, in the
proceeds of these lands, always reserving
one-fourth to be repaid to the several
counties, and any interference or apparent
interference in these proceeds should not
properly be discussed in connection with the
question before the House. If the hon.
gentleman chose, let him bring up a separate
and distinct resolution to the effect that the
older counties should refund the money to
these that are in arrears for school lands.
But that had nothing to do with this ques-
tion. The statute provided that these
school lands should be sold at \$2 an acre,
and it was not competent for them to remit
a single dollar either of principal or interest.
The proposition of the Government was fair
and reasonable. No rule could be laid down
applicable to all cases. The only just way
was to consider each individual case upon
its own merits.

Mr. SINCLAIR said he was quite willing
to admit that as a general thing the school
lands in North Bruce were valuable, and
were purchased at a reasonable rate; though
some of the lands were inferior. It was not,
however, correct, as stated by the hon.
Treasurer, that all the school lands were
sold for \$2 an acre. These lands comprised
several town plots, which were sold at a
higher price.

Mr. WOOD—I meant to have excepted
the town plots, of course.

Mr. SINCLAIR said in reference to some
of these town plots, if the Government made
any abatement, it would be only justice to
make some abatements in their case. The town
plot of Southampton for instance had been
sold very high, under the impression that it
was going to be a Canadian Chicago. Some
years ago a Commissioner was sent up to
value that plot, and instead of valuing it at
\$2 an acre, they made something like
\$120. If abatements were to be made this
case should not be overlooked.

Mr. WOOD—You cannot give exact jus-
tice to every man in selling land: one man
as a matter of course gets a better lot than
others.

Mr. SINCLAIR said if the Government
were going into a general inquiry as to
the prices of lands in order to aid poor
settlers, he did not see why they should
confine their attention exclusively to school
lands. He wished also to call the attention
of the Government to the case of the settlers
in North Bruce who had purchased Indian
lands. They had paid a high price for these
lands, and much of it was inferior to the
school lands. The burden of supporting the
Indians up there should not fall exclusively
upon the settlers. He thought the Govern-
ment should take possession of the Indian
lands, and pay the Indians out of a fund for
that purpose. No settlers in the whole Pro-
vince deserved relief more than those who
had settled on Indian lands in North Bruce,
and if relief was not afforded them many of
them would be obliged to leave their farms
and the country.

Mr. A. W. LAUDER said he was glad to
see that this question had at last been taken
up in earnest, and he hoped no mere party
considerations would be allowed to interfere
with an equitable settlement of the matter.
He hoped the Government would adopt
some scheme by which all lands should re-
ceive relief alike.

Mr. SCOTT (Grey) said he agreed with
the remarks of the Commissioner of Crown
Lands, and also with those of the hon. mem-
ber for South Bruce. The latter had gone
further than the Commissioner of Crown
Lands, but he (Mr. Scott) was prepared to go
with him. He considered that all classes of
lands should participate in the relief, and
quite agreed with the hon. member for South
Bruce that if the Commissioner should be
armed with power in one case he should in
all. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. OLIVER said that the Commissioner
of Crown Lands had stated that the Govern-
ment would not use the power they
sought for to further their politi-
cal prospects. It was very extraor-
dinary that this House should be
called on by the Government to pass this
measure just on the eve of an election.
(Hear, hear.) The course of the Government
was very significant. The matter was evi-
dently a blind, or it would be better under-
stood by the members of the Government,
who contradicted each other on the details.

The real object was to dangle prospective re-
lief before the eyes of the poor
people of the Province for the next six
months, and then there would be nothing
more heard of it for three years to come.
(Hear, hear.)

It now being six o'clock the House rose
for recess.

After recess,

Mr. OLIVER resumed the debate. He
said the House had been called upon without
sufficient information being given it to dele-
gate extraordinary powers to the Govern-
ment. This was the greatest attempt that
had yet been made to procure the power to
expend money without affording any in-
formation as to details. If this scheme were
pushed through in its present shape it would
not be strange if certain gentlemen were
found doing missionary work among certain
of the constituencies before next elections.
(Hear, hear, and laughter) He would be
glad to vote a sum for the relief of these set-
tlers, provided it were not a large one.

Mr. McKELLAR said that although his
constituency was not greatly interested in
this matter, yet it was interested in the gen-
eral prosperity of the country. There was
not a subject of much greater importance
than the one now under discussion. This
subject was one which he himself and his
friends on this side of the House had brought
up before; they had brought it up at the first
session of this Parliament, and it had recur-
red at every subsequent session. He was
aware that there were large arrear-
ages—the exact amount had been stated
by the hon. member for South Bruce. He
was also aware there was a large number of
people that were in great distress, and who
were unable to pay for the land they had
purchased. He thought it was an act of
justice to these people and the whole coun-
try that their case should be considered. But
when he looked at these resolutions, and
found that the Commissioner of Crown Lands
had only taken up two classes of these lands,
he (Mr. McKellar) was very much surprised.
The Commissioner only proposed to deal
with the Crown, clergy and grammar school
lands. Now, the arrears of the grammar
school lands were comparatively small; and
while he went heartily with the Government
in dealing with these lands, he was anxious
to go further in the common school lands.
He failed to see any force in the arguments
of the Government not to deal with that
class of lands. It was said they were trust
funds; but these funds had been abolished;
there were no such funds now, for the funds
for the schools were to be taken out of
the consolidated revenue of the country.
But, supposing they were trust funds,
were we for that reason to stand by idly, in
the case of the settlers on the common school
lands, while doing justice to those on the
Grammar School and Clergy Reserve lands?
Why, what did it matter to the Common
Schools whether the money were taken out
of the pockets of the settlers, or out
of the general funds of the province? If we
did justice to these people—if there were a
deficiency—whatever we remitted to them
we could take out of the general funds of the
province; and whatever was to be due our Lower

Canada friends we could supply out of the
general funds of the province. We should
do justice to those people, for it was our
duty. He would certainly advocate the
extension of the principle the Commissioner
had inaugurated. He hoped they would
have the sense of the House on it if the
Government did not yield; but they would
yield, for there was scarcely a measure they
did not yield on when pressed. He would
have a vote on the amending of those
resolutions, so that those settled on
the Common Schools lands should be
included in this measure of relief. One of
the arguments that the Government used
was that these lands were so very good that
no reduction would be required. Well,
then, if a very large portion of these lands
were so very good, why should the Govern-
ment object to deal with them? (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. WOOD said they could not deal
with them. The Government had no power
to do so. They might give them money out
of the Treasury, but the trust was estab-
lished by the Act, and could not be touched.

Mr. BLAKE—Have you not touched it
already?

Hon. Mr. WOOD said the trust was lodged
in the Dominion of Canada by the British
North America Act. The Government could
not deal with these lands, but could give
money if the House chose.

Mr. BLAKE—It is the same thing.

Mr. McKELLAR said that he thought the
Treasurer had dealt with the trust already
by the Act of last session.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that the Act laid it
down that all the moneys the Government
got should go into the consolidated treasury.

Mr. McKELLAR said he would like to
know where these school lands funds went
to if they did not go to the consolidated
revenue.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that the annual
income derived from these lands went to the
consolidated revenue.

Mr. McKELLAR said it did not matter
where the funds came from, so that the
settlers were relieved. (Hear, hear.) He
did not ask for a reduction on those lands,
for the funds for the schools should be
maintained; but he affirmed that we must
keep faith with the people of the Lower
Province. If the money of the school lands
could not be made available, what more
legitimate object could the surplus be put
to than to help those people? The measure
would be a miserable one if the whole of
these lands were not included. It had been
said this would be doing injustice to the old
settlers; on the contrary, it would
be doing a great justice to the old
settlers if those people were relieved.

It was for the interest of the old settlers to
have the new settlers prosperous and out of
debt. He for one—representing an old con-
stituency—and other gentlemen also repre-
senting old constituencies were interested
in giving assistance to the settlers on new
lands; yet increasing the prosperity and
wealth of these people was to increase the
prosperity of the country generally. The
Government, in bringing forward their
scheme in its present shape, laid themselves
open to the charge that they were bringing

it forward for electioneering purposes. The
House could easily see how convenient it
would be for the Government to have a Bill
of this sort passed. They did not forget
the utterances of the Attorney-General
to the city of Hamilton, or that other ob-
jection of his, in which he stated that he
knew how the sum of \$50,000 could be spent.
The Provincial Secretary had stated that an
asylum was built below this city because
the members from that section had sup-
ported the Government. With these facts
before them, did it not become the
House to see how far they should
trust the Government in this matter?
The Attorney-General had said that his sup-
porters would have their axes nicely ground.
(Laughter.) He (Mr. McKellar) did not say
this would be exactly the case in the present
instance; still it was not improbable. The
Government should so manage this measure
as to remove all suspicions that they were
bringing it forward for election purposes. He
hoped there would be a commission appoint-
ed, so that the matter would be placed in
the hands of some disinterested men, who
would ever advocate the indiscriminate can-
celling or reduction of interest. He found
on looking over the report of the Commis-
sioner of Crown Lands, that a very large
amount of money was laid to Crown Land
Agents. In 1869 \$100,000 had been so paid,
the agent in the county of Bruce getting
\$2,000, and the agent in the county of Grey
\$3,000. If these claims were settled, the
agents could be dispensed with, and a large
amount of money saved. He would
advocate including the Common School
lands, and he hoped that if the Govern-
ment would not yield, the House would
force them; and that a proper tribunal
would be constituted to deal with these
questions. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said if the
purchasers of school lands had been com-
pelled to pay, as the statute provided, a large
sum would have been raised for common
schools, and the settlers would not have
been unjustly treated. But the Government
of the day favoured the purchasers of school
lands, and they were allowed to fall in ar-
rears; and now, when they declined to make
a reduction of these arrears, they were
charged with harshly treating the settlers.
Why did not the hon. gentleman, when he
was supporting a Tory Government, press
the claims of this class of settlers?

Mr. McKELLAR—What Government was
that?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—Sir John A.
Macdonald's Government, which the hon.
gentleman supported for two years.

Mr. McKELLAR—I thought that was like
what you call your own Government, a coal-
ition.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD went on to say
that there was no foundation in any act of
his Government for the charge that they
would use the power they were asking for
corrupt purposes. All the foundation the
Opposition could find for such a charge were
some jocular remarks he had made in his
good nature, and which had been quoted
ad nauseam. If their faults and shortcom-
ings were as great as represented by the Op-
position, how indeed must be the condition
of the Opposition, seeing that the Govern-
ment were preferred before them by the peo-
ple. They had the satisfaction of knowing
that they had not lost a single friend during
the four sessions; while some who had at
first opposed them had since got their eyes
open, and now gave them a hearty support.

Mr. BLAKE—Did you say it was their
eyes that were opened? (Laughter.)

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—Not yours,
though. He could not make any jocular re-
mark in the lobbies or in the halls of an hotel
without there being spies around him to tell
it, and the next morning it would all appear
in THE GLOBE, with the worst possible con-
struction put upon it. With reference to the
School lands, he cited the Statute of 1849,
which was to the effect that the fund to be
raised by the sale of these lands should not
be alienated for any other purposes what-
ever, but should remain a perpetual fund
for the support of Common Schools.

Mr. BLAKE—What about the Grammar
School fund?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said if the
hon. gentlemen opposite were in power them-
selves they could not depart from the strict
letter of the statute.

Mr. BLAKE—You have broken down
that statute by your own act.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD denied that he
had done so. The money had been invested
in stock, and the proceeds of it were applied
according to statute. When he was at the
head of a former Government, none of the
gentlemen now opposed to him, but who
then supported him, brought this matter
up.

Mr. McKELLAR—Why did not you bring
it up when you were at the head of the
Government?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—I had enough
to do to keep you in order. (Laughter.)

Mr. BLAKE—Who were in the Opposi-
tion then? Your present colleagues.
(Laughter.)

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—They were a
much stronger Opposition than the one he
had now to contend against. His hon.
friend had never yet been in office, but he
could tell him if he ever got into office, he
would not be able to remain there, on ac-
count of the smallness of the patronage that
would be at his disposal.

Mr. McKELLAR—Hear, hear! It is
the patronage that keeps you there.
(Laughter.)

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—In 1850, when
the Tory Government took a fit of economy.

Mr. McKELLAR—Who are the Tories?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—O! you know
them. The hon. gentlemen opposite get
very nervous whenever the Tories are men-
tioned. (Laughter.) In 1850 the Tory
Government took a fit of economy, and re-
duced a number of salaries, among others
their own to £800. Four years afterwards
Mr. Hincks handed over a large number of
the Reformers of that day to Sir Al-
lan McNab, and nine months later
the Government raised these same salaries in
defiance of the previous vote. In like man-