

Mr. Lett. There were no petitions against the Bill from these parties, but there was a petition from William Spragge, who had a contingent interest, opposing the Bill. This gentleman contended that the land would be of more value to him if retained in possession by the trustees. He was ready to take the risk of his contingent interest expiring, because he believed that the land would increase in value. If the Bill went into committee, he should move amendments to the Bill for the purpose of directing the trustees to reserve so much of the land in their hands as would fall to Mr. Spragge's direction; and in case of this falling to the ground, he should move that Mr. Spragge be appointed as one of the trustees, an office which he had already declined upon the supposition that he had a contingent interest in the property. He would now move that the House go into committee that day three months.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said the hon. member had endeavoured to point out a distinction between the two cases, and seemed to think that the present case was the more exceptional of the two. The testator having 1,900 acres of land in the township of Blenheim, in the county of Oxford, left that to his daughter—Mrs Lett—with the power of appointment by her to any child or children that she might have; and in the event of her dying without children the remainder was to go to two brothers and a sister of the testator. One of these was the party who was opposing this legislation. The rent derived from the land was \$3,300; the land being worth about \$50 an acre. This at 6 per cent would produce \$5,700 a year; so that Mrs. Lett, the party interested, would, if she lived ten years, lose, if she only received the above rent, a sum not less than \$24,000. The party opposing was aged between fifty and sixty, while Mrs. Lett was only about 37. A large expense would be incurred in keeping up the land.

Mr. PERRY said the Bill was one which was very important. The question really was—would the land be more valuable at the end of thirty years than at present? His opinion—and he was acquainted with the locality—was, that it would not. The land had been cleared some thirty years ago; there was hardly enough wood on it for the purposes of fuel; and he could not imagine anything that would cause this land to increase in value for the next fifteen or twenty years. He would support the Bill, believing it was in the interest of all parties that it should pass.

Mr. BLAKE said there had been an increase in the value of farming lands generally in this province, and the increase might affect this land in the future. He thought that in disposing of persons' property against their will, the House was entering upon a course of legislation fatal to the security of property in this country. As long as by our laws we permitted men to make wills to tie up property in a particular way, then let every man have the assurance that the disposition he might make of his property should not be altered by Act of Parliament. The testator in this case might have acted foolishly, but this was not to the point; the will could not be altered without violating all sound principles of legislation. He would vote for the amendment.

Mr. LOUNT defended the provisions of the Bill.

A division was then taken, with the following result:—

YEAS—Blake, Boyd, Carnegie, Clemens, Code, Colquhoun, Craig (Aussell), Carrle, Eyre, Ferrier, Fitzsimmons, Gow, Graham (Hastings), Lyon, McCall (North), McColl (Elgin), McKellar, McKim, Maclellan, Muir, Oliver, Paxton, Read, Richards, Sinclair, Trow, Williams (Durham), Williams (Hamilton)—27.

NAYS—Anderson, Barber, Beatty, Boulter, Cameron, Carling (London), Cockburn, Corby, Coyne, Craig (Glengary), Eyre, Gairbraith, Grahame (York), Hays, Hoop, Lancer, Lunt, Lutor, McDougall, McMurrich, Monteith, Pardee, Perry, Scott (Grey), Swinerton, Wallis, Wilson, Wood—28.

The announcement of the numbers was received with considerable laughter and cheering.

Mr. OLIVER called attention to the fact that Mr. Wigle had left the Chamber before the names were read, and that his name should be struck from the list.

Mr. BLAKE corroborated this, and after a short discussion, the clerk removed Mr. Wigle's name from the division list, announcing the numbers as equal—27 on each side. This announcement was received with renewed laughter.

Mr. LOUNT (the promoter of the Bill), said Mr. Hays had not voted.

The SPEAKER called upon Mr. Hays to vote.

Mr. HAYS—I vote yea—no, nay. (Laughter.)

An explanation ensued, and Mr. Hays stated that his intention was to oppose the

amendment. His name was consequently added to the nays in the division list, which again restored it to 27 for 28 against, being the signal for renewed cheering and laughter.

The motion for going into committee was then carried, and the Speaker, amid much laughter, called upon Mr. Hays to act as chairman of the committee. At this point, the Attorney-General, who had been absent from the Chamber during the division, re-entered and took his seat.

On clause one,

Mr. LYON moved an amendment with a view to introducing the name of Mr. Spragge, Ottawa, in the clause as one of the trustees.

After some discussion the amendment was lost.

Mr. LYON moved an amendment to the effect that not more than one half of the lands should be sold, without the consent in writing of Mr. Spragge or his representatives.

The amendment was lost on a division.

The Committee reported the Bill without amendment. Bill ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

CORNWALL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mr. CRAIG (Glengary) moved the House into committee, Mr. Carnegie in the chair, on the Bill to appoint trustees for certain lands belonging to the Presbyterian Church, in connection with the Church of Scotland, in the town of Cornwall, and authorizing such trustees to sell portions thereof.

The committee rose and reported the Bill with an amendment. Ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

CONSUMERS' GAS COMPANY, TORONTO.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON moved the House into committee—Mr. Grahame (York) in the chair—on the Bill to amend the Acts incorporating the Consumers' Gas Company, of Toronto.

The committee reported the Bill without amendment. Third reading to-morrow.

THE ESTATE OF THE LATE JOHN FLANAGAN.

Mr. CRAIG (Glengary) moved the House into committee—Mr. Graham (Hastings) in the chair—on the Bill for the relief of the estate of the late John Flanagan, of the township of Charlottenburgh, in the county of Glengary.

The committee rose and reported the Bill with amendments. Third reading to-morrow.

STAMFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Mr. BEATTY moved the House into committee—Mr. Perry in the chair—on the Bill to enable the trustees of the Stamford Presbyterian church to sell lands held by them for the use of the congregation, and for other purposes. The committee reported the Bill without amendment. Third reading to-morrow.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

Mr. WILLIAMS (Durham), moved the third reading of the Bill to authorize the Midland Railway of Canada to consolidate its mortgages, and for other purposes. Carried.

WEST MIDDLESEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Mr. CURRIE moved the House into committee—Mr. McDougall in the chair—on the Bill to empower the West Middlesex Agricultural Society to sell certain lands. The various clauses were agreed to.

ALBERT COLLEGE.

Mr. GRAHAM (Hastings) moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Act incorporating Albert College.

Mr. BLAKE said that he intended only to call the attention of the House for a few moments to this Bill. The Bill empowered this University to grant degrees in various faculties—degrees it was not now in its power to grant. By an almost unanimous vote, the House some time ago adopted the view that the interests of superior education would be best consulted by establishing in the Provincial University a uniform system of graduation. One great difficulty in carrying out that scheme was the existence of several institutions throughout the Province with independent power of granting degrees. With that power nobody proposed to interfere; but still its existence was in the way. The present Bill was to grant additional powers to one of these institutions, and so to cause divergence from the course the House

intended should be pursued. It might be that at some future stage of the Bill he would call the attention of the House to this matter.

The Bill was read a second time.

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH, LONDON.

On motion of Hon. Mr. CARLING, the House went into committee on the Bill to incorporate the Sisters of St. Joseph, in the diocese of London, Mr. Cockburn in the chair.

On clause one,

Mr. BLAKE said he was glad to see that the objections to the clause had been obviated in its amended form.

The committee made some progress with the Bills, and asked leave to sit again.

ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY, LONDON.

On motion of Hon. Mr. CARLING, the House went into committee on the Bill to incorporate the St. George's Society, London, Mr. Cockburn in the chair.

The various clauses were passed, and the committee rose and reported the Bill with certain amendments.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion of Mr. BLAKE, seconded by Mr. McKellar, leave of absence was granted for one week to Mr. Sexton.

BUSINESS.

In reply to Mr. BLAKE,

Attorney-General MACDONALD said the financial statement would be made to-morrow. He was afraid that he would not have time to submit his scheme for aid to railways to-morrow also, but he would try.

The House adjourned at 10:5 p. m.