

Mr. SCOTT (Ottawa)—Of course it would.
Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—Chair, chair.
The matter then dropped.

GAME LAWS.

The House then went into committee—
Mr. Ayre in the chair—on Mr. Trow's Bill
for the better protection of game.

On the third clause, fixing the time for
shooting quail, duck, &c., at the 15th Aug-
ust,

Mr. WIGL moved an amendment that
the date should be fixed at a month later,
which was agreed to by Mr. Trow, and the
clause was amended.

Several members spoke on the question,
contending that the same provision would
not apply equitably to the whole of the Pro-
vince. Mr. McDougall suggested that the
committee should rise, in order that a special
committee might be appointed to divide the
Province into districts. He moved an
amendment to this effect, which was ruled
out of order.

The clause, as amended, was then carried.

Mr. McDOUGALL moved that the com-
mittee should rise, with a view to the whole
question being considered by a special com-
mittee.

Mr. McCODE and Mr. McKELLAR sup-
ported this motion, which was lost on a
division.

The succeeding clauses having been car-
ried, the committee rose and reported the
Bill with certain amendments. Third read-
ing to-morrow.

PLANTING TREES.

On motion of Mr. Scott (Grey) the House

went into committee on the Bill to
encourage the planting of trees upon the
highways in this Province, and to give the
right of property in such trees to the owners
of the soil adjacent to such highways, Mr.
Boulter in the chair.

The various clauses of the Bill were agreed
to, and the committee then rose and reported.
Third reading to-morrow.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Mr. ANDERSON moved the House into
committee on the Bill for the prevention of
corrupt practices at municipal elections, Mr.
Baxter in the chair.

Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD suggested that
the Bill should be dropped for this session,
and the amendments proposed by it be moved
on the Consolidated Municipal Law next
session.

Mr. ANDERSON said the present bill was
founded on one framed by the Attorney-
General, but modified in one or two particu-
lars. He was assured by many correspon-
dents that there was a great necessity for the
Bill, which would be increased by the appli-
cation for bonuses, on account of the many
railway measures passed during the session.
He should test the sense of the committee
on the Bill.

After some discussion, a motion was car-
ried that the committee rise and report pro-
gress.

MISTAKEN TITLES.

Mr. BLAKE moved the second reading of
the Bill for the protection of persons im-
proving lands under a mistake of title. He
said that the present state of the law occasion-
ally necessitated the passing of iniquitous
laws for the purpose of legalizing titles or to
legalize conveyances made by married wo-
men, although the powers of law had not
been observed in reference to them. It was
held to be a cruel and unjust thing for an
owner of land to lay by for years, and after
allowing another person to come in and cul-
tivate his ground under a title which the per-
son believed to be good, but which owing to
some defect in the title did not carry the
land, and turn the settler out of possession
and reap the fruits of his labour. This was
the principle on which the various laws
which had the effect of transferring one
man's property to another, had been found-
ed. It appeared to him to be no more than
just and reasonable that if a man went on
the land of another, believing it to be his
own land, the Legislature should say that
the owner, who allowed his land to lie vacant
and the other man to make improvements,
should not recover the land and have the
benefits of the improvements without either
paying for the improvements, or permitting
the man who has gone in to get the land or
the value of the land itself. It was unrea-
sonable to say that the true owner should be
compelled to pay the estimated value of the
improvements, which might not be so valu-
able to him; and, therefore, the alternative
to which he had referred was presented to
him. He proposed that the true owner
should always get all that he could have ob-

tained if the improvements had not been
made, but not the power of wresting the
land away from a man who had innocently
improved the land. Every member conver-
sant with the law must be acquainted with
many cases of great injustice which had oc-
curred under the operation of the present
law. The Court of Chancery refused to help
a man into his lands unless he consented to
pay the value of the improvements. He
thought no man should be in a position to
say to another, "You have sowed, I will
reap; you have made that valuable which
was before comparatively valueless, and not
for yourself but for me." To avoid what he
(Mr. Blake) had no hesitation in saying was
a scandal and disgrace to the administration
of the law, he brought forward this Bill.
This was not a squatters' Bill, recognizing
the right of a man who went upon land know-
ing it was not his own and improved it. Such
a title would be a mistake, for it would tend
to encourage encroachments on other persons'
property. But where difficulties occurred
owing to forged deeds, difficulties of descrip-
tion, or mistakes in wills—when cases occur-
red where men went upon land thinking it
was their own, these men should not lose
the value of their improvements. This was
the purport of the Bill.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD opposed the
Bill. He said it would, if it became law,
introduce a novel feature into our legislation,
and would give rise to much mischief and
hard swearing.

Mr. PARDEE said that this Bill intro-
duced no new feature into the law. It sim-
ply provided that one man should not
have the advantage of another man's labour
without paying for it. The principle was so
broad in justice that it could not and ought
not to be denied. The House had already
recognized the principle of this Bill, for last
session there was a Bill passed which pro-
vided that if a man bought land under a sale
for taxes, believing that, under certain cir-
cumstances, the sale was good, and that in
consequence he had made improvements, he
should not be deprived of those improve-
ments without being paid for them. There
was nothing novel in this Bill, and it merely
enacted a principle of simple justice, already
recognized by the Legislature. He believed,
if this Bill did not now become law, it would
not be long before the Government brought
in a similar measure. It was not the first
time the Government had followed this
course, and opposed measures brought in by
the hon. member for South Bruce; he (Mr.
Pardee) sometimes thought for no other
reason than that they were introduced by
that hon. member. He hoped the House
would give sanction to this measure.

Mr. LAUDER opposed the Bill.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said that the Bill
met his most unqualified disapproval, as being
calculated to deprive people of their rights.
There was no such analogy between the
cases proposed by the Bill and the cases of
mistaken surveys and sales for taxes. The
public interest required that lands should not
lie idle and unproductive, and therefore
they were sold for taxes; but in the Bill op-
portunity would be given for great wrong,
since a man might enter upon land belonging
to a comparatively poor man, and make
such improvements on it as were beyond the
means of the true owner to purchase. The
effect of this was, under the Bill, simply to
force the true owner to sell. The case of
timber being cut off an estate was not met
by this Bill. The effect of the Bill was to
protect the man who had gone on the lands
and sold the timber, and not the true owner
of the land, who was entitled to the pro-
ceeds of the timber. He did not believe that
there existed anything like such a number of
cases of injustice as required the passing of
such a Bill as proposed. Under this view,
he moved the six months' hoist.

It being within a few minutes of 6 o'clock,

Mr. McKELLAR moved the adjournment
of the debate.

BUSINESS.

Atty.-Gen. MACDONALD moved that
when the House adjourns it shall stand ad-
journed till ten o'clock on the following
morning, and that Private Bills should have
precedence for the first hour on Saturday,
Government business being taken up on
Monday. Carried.

The House then adjourned till ten o'clock
to-morrow morning.