

the Bill read the third time.

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

Hon. A. S. HARDY moved the House in Committee on the Bill to amend the Act respecting the application of the Religious Institutions Act to the Church of England.

The Bill was reported and read the third time.

AGRICULTURE AND ARTS.

Hon. A. M. ROSS moved the House in Committee on the Bill to amend and consolidate the Agriculture & Arts Act.

Mr. DRURY moved in amendment a clause providing that anyone who knowingly signs a false or spurious pedigree for the purpose of registration in any herd, stock, or stud book, be liable to a penalty of not more than \$100 and not less than \$25.

The Bill was reported and read the third time.

Hon. A. M. ROSS moved the House in Committee on the Bill to make further provision regarding the Public Health.

An amendment was inserted making the provision for erecting smallpox hospitals read 150 yards instead of 100. This makes it imperative that a smallpox hospital shall not be established within 150 yards of a dwelling.

The Bill was reported and read the third time.

It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

After recess the House went into Committee on the Bill respecting the drainage indebtedness of the Township of Sombra. He explained that the township was indebted to the Government for drainage works. An arrangement was made with the Township Council but the Council of the following year refused to carry it out. A suit was brought by the Attorney-General to compel the completion of the assessment roll, in order that the cost of the drainage works might be recovered by the Province. This action was settled and the amount of the indebtedness fixed at \$42,500. The Bill was to confirm them minutes of judgment embodying this settlement, and the assessment rolls of the drainage works as settled by the Court of Revision of Townships.

Mr. CLANCY contended that the people of the Township of Sombra had not had notice of the confirmation of the assessment.

Mr. CREIGHTON said the Government had no right to forgive a debt, or virtually to expend the moneys of the Province without the consent of the House.

Hon. C. F. FRASER said he would like to know where it was laid down that the Government had no right to effect a compromise of this kind. The Attorney-General had brought suit against the township, and surely it would not be contended that he had no power, as the Solicitor for the Province, to settle the suit. Suppose that in a certain case it appeared that \$10,000 had been paid by the Department of Public Works, but that the value of the work done was only \$5,000. In such a case the member for Grey would lay down the doctrine that the Government had no option but to enforce the payment of the \$10,000.

Mr. FERGUSON said that he had seen the Reeve of Sombra, who had expressed himself as perfectly satisfied with the arrangement.

Hon. T. B. PARDEE said that both parties in the Township Council were now anxious for this legislation, and no remonstrances had been received against it. His hon. friend from Kent (Mr. Clancy) was contending for a mere technicality. It did not follow that when from the peculiar circumstances of the case the amount of the nominal debt was reduced, there was any forgiving of the debt; for the reduced debt represented the amount really and justly due by the township.

Mr. CREIGHTON contended that the Government had no power to reduce a debt due to the Crown without the authority of the House.

Hon. C. F. FRASER pointed out that the Government had clearly power to arrive at the right amount due to the Crown, and that if it were shown that the amount first claimed were not due, had not been expended by the Government, or that it had been wrongfully expended, then they had power to reduce the amount claimed.

Mr. MEREDITH contended that the action taken had been unconstitutional, and contrary to the rules of the House.

Hon. O. MOWAT said the work was completed in 1877, and yet up to this moment the Government had been unable to collect a single dollar. There had been a great deal of negotiation about the claim, when the township said the work was not worth the amount charged for it and that some money had been improperly spent. Amongst other things he found a letter from the Reeve, written in 1879, to the Commissioner of Public Works, stating that some of the work had injured some of the land. After dealing with the negotiations leading to a settlement, he contended that as an executor or a trustee had power to compromise, so the

trustee of a nation had the same power. The right to compromise was incident to the executive authority of the Province. The agreement, therefore, was legal, and it had not been contended that the settlement was not a fair one.

The Bill was reported.

Mr. CLANCY moved an amendment to the third reading, providing that the townships of Sombra, Moore, Dawn, and Chatham should participate to an equal extent in the reduction.

The amendment was lost on division, and the Bill was read the second time.

THE BRIDGES QUESTION.

On the third reading of the Bill to amend the Municipal Act,

Hon. C. F. FRASER moved in amendment that the Bill be referred to the Committee of the Whole to be amended so as to make the clause and amendment relating to the maintenance of bridges in towns and townships inoperative for a year.

This was adopted. The Bill was reported, and read the third time.

NIAGARA PARK.

Hon. O. MOWAT said before the next order was proceeded with he desired to make a statement in respect to the Niagara park project in respect to which a Bill was passed last session. It was well known to the House that it was the intention of the Government to procure the park and provide to a certain extent for its management. It would probably be known to the House that under the Act of last session Commissioners were appointed for the purpose of discharging the duties for which the Act provides. The Commissioners were appointed not long after the Act was passed, and they had been at work from that time until now. It is well known, said the speaker, that we have done all we could to prevent a feeling that there was any political capital to be made out of the proceedings, and of the three Commissioners, only one of them belongs to our party. They are all men of ability, men of taste and judgment, and men in whom the public have full confidence. They have acted all along without compensation, and have taken a great deal of interest in the working out of the project. The Chairman, Col. Gzowski, has specially interested himself in the matter, and the success of the scheme—for I am sure it will ultimately be successful—will be in no small extent due to the zeal and ability displayed by him. I have prepared a Bill which I had some hope that we might be able to pass during the present session, but on account of it being so very late I have abandoned the hope. Again, no awards have been made by the Commissioners, and

NO AGREEMENTS MADE

with the owners of the properties, and we are yet to a great extent in the dark as to what the cost of the park will actually be, the amount needed for maintenance, and the mode of raising the money. In view of all these considerations and the lateness of the session, I have somewhat reluctantly determined not to proceed with the Bill which I had prepared. The Commissioners suggest two methods of raising the funds; one of these, and the one preferred by the Commissioners, is to float bonds. Their report shows what the revenue may be expected to be, and after making enormous allowances, they state that enough will be realized to pay the expenses of management, interest, and for needed improvements. Their suggestion is that the Province should issue bonds for \$500,000, or that the Province should guarantee bonds to be issued by the Commissioners. It will be a matter for after-consideration which of the two shall be adopted, or whether a third plan should be taken up. I will only say in conclusion that it is the settled policy of the Government to secure the park for the public.

The SPEAKER read a message from His Honour transmitting further supplementary estimates amounting to \$500.

DEBENTURE DEBT OF COBOURG.

Hon. A. M. ROSS moved the discharge of the order for the second reading of the Bill respecting the municipal loan fund debt of the town of Cobourg. He said that the Government had, for a number of years, held debentures of the town of Cobourg on which no interest had been paid for 11 years. Demands were made from time to time upon the town of Cobourg, but no settlement was arrived at. Last year the Government took power to make an arrangement with the town of Cobourg for a reduction of debt or an extension of time. After some unsuccessful negotiations with the town, the Government advertised the debentures for sale. The town of Cobourg then approached the Government and proposed that they should issue new debentures for a reduced amount, and thereupon the debentures were withdrawn from sale. The Council of the town passed a resolution offering to issue