

opinion by some good lawyers that there might be assignments made not coming within the scope of the Act, this bill provided that all assignments must come within the scope of the Act, all others being declared void. Provision was made to compel assignees to hold meetings at the request of the creditors, and certain difficulties respecting fees, etc., were met by special clauses of the Act.

Mr. MEREDITH said on the whole he agreed with the provisions of this measure. He thought, however, that some changes were necessary. Several of these he mentioned, dwelling especially upon the clause to make assignments outside of this Act null and void. He thought all purposes would be accomplished by providing for the sheriff, or some other officer to take the place of the assignee.

The bill was read the second time.

EXTENSION OF LAND TITLES ACT.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT, presenting the bill to extend the operation of the Land Titles Act and otherwise amend the same, said that this measure provided for the extension of the Act to other parts of the Province than those in which it was now in effect. While it seemed easy to convince people theoretically, and many petitions came in to have it extended, yet practically people were slow to take advantage of its provisions. In the County of York and City of Toronto, in which the Act had been in force for some time, only 102 applications had been made under it. This did not throw doubt upon the usefulness of the Act or show that it would not be taken advantage of. (Hear, hear.) The Act before its introduction was less introduced here than in the Australian colonies where it was first introduced. Of the applications made 79 had been disposed of. Though so few applications had been made they covered a great value of property. Of vacant property there was \$660,000, and of improved property with the buildings upon it \$380,000. In the majority of cases those placing their property within the scope of the Act were owners of tracts of land which they desired to divide up and sell in lots, being able under the Act to give each purchaser an absolute title. Provision was made for the extension of the Act as called for by public sentiment. It might be brought into force in any county by a vote of the council, and as the benefit and the option were local it was considered fair that the expense should be local also. A local master was to be appointed in each county with similar powers to those of the Master of Titles in Toronto. The powers of the Master were very great, for his certificate of ownership was absolutely binding. Cases of doubt would be referred to the Inspector to be appointed, the Master of Titles who was acquainted with the Act, to be Inspector until say ten counties had adopted the Act, when a separate Inspector would be appointed.

Hon. O. MOWAT said that he had framed the measure with the object of obtaining the greatest possible simplicity consistent with efficiency.

Mr. MONK suggested that two or more counties might unite for registration purposes.

Hon. O. MOWAT said that this might perhaps be done.

Hon. A. S. HARDY said that he had always been favorable to the Torrens system, and desired to see it so worked as not to centralise its operation in Toronto.

The bill was read a second time.

Mr. MEREDITH said that the Attorney-General was right in saying that he had always received the support of the members of the Opposition in his previous legislation on this

subject, but he was afraid he could not say as much for all the members of the Government. Some of them, he believed, were hostile to the Torrens' system, and he must say that the present measure had been drawn with a view to destroying instead of extending the system. Some enemy had done this thing. (Laughter.) The counties were to get the benefit of the system only as the price of paying the whole expense of the working of it, with the exception of the fees, and this must tend to make it unpopular.

SCOTT ACT MAGISTRATES.

Hon. O. MOWAT moved the second reading of the bill respecting the appointment and proceedings of police magistrates. The bill provided that two or more magistrates might be appointed for any county. This was rendered necessary by a recent decision which had surprised both the public and profession, as to the powers of magistrates whose powers did not extend over a whole county. It had even been decided that certain magistrates were liable to action for having assumed jurisdiction, and in order to protect them the Act would be retrospective. Difficulty having arisen in obtaining constables to carry out the law, the magistrates would be empowered to appoint constables temporarily for the purpose. There was little doubt of the necessity for these provisions. No one, even if opposed to the Canada Temperance Act, would say that there should be

FREE TRADE IN LIQUOR

in Scott Act counties; and this was really the question to be decided. In most counties the Act could not be enforced without the appointment of a police magistrate for the purpose, and he therefore made provision for the appointment of two or more in each county. By the legislation passed last session it was provided that magistrates might be appointed whenever such appointment was requested by resolution of the County Councils. The County Councils had not generally passed

these resolutions, the expense being one reason, and a reason sufficient to influence a council unfriendly to the Act. The fines, however, were now paid to the councils, the purpose, no doubt, being that they should be applied to the enforcement of the Act.

Mr. WOOD (Brant) said he was strongly in favor of the bill. The ordinary judges were quite powerless

TO ENFORCE THE SCOTT ACT

and most people would agree that it should be enforced. It was unjust that a police magistrate should be expected to discharge his duties without a salary. Six hundred dollars seemed a rather small salary, but the councils had power to increase it. There were many difficulties connected with the enforcement of the Act which the Government could not remedy, but he was quite sure that the bill would greatly strengthen the hands of the friends of the Canada Temperance Act. (Applause.)

Mr. WATERS expressed himself as strongly in favor of the bill. Those portions of the Province in which the Scott Act had been adopted, he believed, would not have been satisfied had the session passed without such a bill as this, but this measure would give general satisfaction. He asked whether, in a town having no police magistrate, the magistrate of the county would have jurisdiction.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT gave an affirmative opinion.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE STATUTES.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT moved the second reading of the bill to give early effect to certain amendments of the law recommended by the Statute Commissioners.