

# THE ASSEMBLY.

## Mr. Marter Again the Talker of the Day

### ON THE FREE GRANTS QUESTION.

#### Mr. Hardy Points Out His Elec- tion Tactics

#### AND MAKES HIM INDIGNANT.

#### Several Resolutions of Mr. Marter Put and Defeated—The Municipal Ex- emption Bill and Other Government Mea- sures.

March 31, 1890.

The House had its first Monday sitting to-night, probably also its last. The day was largely spent in debating Mr. Hardy's Free Grants and Homesteads Act, against which Mr. Marter entertained some very strong objections. The discussion became very interesting when Mr. Hardy remarked that Mr. Marter preferred his objections and charges simply for electioneering purposes. After this had been disposed of several minor Government bills came up, and finally there was a short discussion on the Treasurer's Assessment Exemption Bill.

#### FOREST PROTECTION.

Hon. Mr. Hardy drew attention to the report in THE GLOBE of a statement made by him on Friday evening in the course of a short debate on matters connected with forestry. It appeared from the report as if one of his schemes for the preservation of the forests was the appointment of eighty or ninety rangers. As a matter of fact there were employed by the owners of timber limits and the Government jointly about eighty fire rangers for the protection of the woods and forests from fire during the summer, the owners paying one-half of their wages and the Government paying the other half. His idea was to utilise this force for the purpose of beginning a system of forestry. There was this handy force already in existence acquainted with the work, and the Government could, without incurring very much additional expense, use these men for the more comprehensive work.

#### LIQUOR LICENSE BILL.

The House went into Committee on the Government's bill to amend the license law. Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) moved a slight amendment to the first clause. Mr. Meredith asked the Provincial Secretary if he still adhered to his decision to confine the number of those who vote on the question of the granting of a license to those entitled to vote for the Legislature and not for municipal purposes, as suggested by some members of the Opposition; also if he still proposed to allow a license to be changed from one locality to another in the same polling sub-division without petition, which some of the Opposition had objected to. He proposed to divide the House on these points, and perhaps some others at a later stage. Mr. Gibson said it had not been decided to accept these amendments. He then explained one or two other slight

amendments which he was disposed to make. These were passed unanimously and the bill was reported for third reading.

#### THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time and passed:—

Respecting the profession of architects—Hon. G. W. Ross.

To incorporate the Huron & Ontario Railway Company—Hon. A. M. Ross.

Respecting the expenses of County Court Judges under the Ditches and Watercourses Act.

Respecting the Town of West Toronto Junction—Mr. Gilmour.

Respecting the Irondale, Bancroft & Ottawa Railway Company—Mr. Woods (Hastings).

Respecting the Hamilton & Dundas Street Railway Company—Mr. Awrey.

#### THE FREE GRANTS BILL.

Hon. Mr. Hardy moved the House into Committee on the bill to amend the Free Grants and Homesteads Act. He explained that he intended moving the following amendment to the Act as it had been read the second time:—

"Where the land allotted to a locatee or purchaser under this Act is composed of two or more lots or parcels of lots, the said locatee or purchaser or those claiming under them may cut such pine trees as may be necessary for the purpose of building and fencing, as hereinbefore provided, on any one or more of the said lots or parcels of lots so located or purchased, and may use the said pine trees on the same lot or on any of the other lots or parcels of lots held by him as a free grant or by purchase under this Act."

The 12th section of the original Act provides for the payment by the Crown to the patentees on all pine trees cut on such land subsequent to the 30th of April next, after the date of the patent, and upon which dues have been collected by the Crown, 25 cents on each thousand feet, board measure, of sawlogs, and \$3 on each thousand cubic feet of spare or waney pine timber.

Mr. Hardy's bill proposed to increase the 25 cents to 33 cents and the \$3 to \$4. The second clause of the bill gives additional privileges, providing that the Committee may dispense with residence and settlement duties in certain cases, and the third similarly provides that the Commissioner may dispense with clearing and residence in certain cases. A bill by Mr. Fell to amend the same Act came up during the discussion. The principal provisions of this bill are the forest, viz., that "No township in any part of the tract or territory mentioned in section 4 of the Free Grants and Homesteads Act shall hereafter be set apart as a free grant township, unless and until an Order in Council appropriating the lands therein for free grants to actual settlers has been approved of by the Legislative Assembly"; the second, namely, the striking out of sections 11 and 12 of the Act, these being the clauses in which the Government retains the right of issuing licenses to cut pine upon lands under the Free Grants and Homesteads Act; and finally, that all trees remaining on the lands at the time the patent issues shall become the property of the patentee.

#### MR. MARTER ON THE STUMP.

Mr. Marter proceeded to discuss the bill at some length and prefaced his remarks by saying he wanted it to be considered outside of politics altogether. After alluding to one or two minor points on which, in his opinion, the measure ought to be amended, Mr. Marter referred to the bill to amend the Free Grants and Homesteads Act introduced by Mr. Fell, which he regarded as a step in the right direction. The Act now in force, instead of being one for the encouragement and bringing over of settlers, had just the opposite effect. He would be glad if the Government would do away with the clause in the existing Act which reserved to them for ever the pine on the settlers' land. To show that more liberal terms had been advocated on behalf of the settlers than were conferred by the Act the hon. gentleman quoted from the speeches delivered in the House during the term of the Sandfield Macdonald Administration. His contention was that the whole of the pine upon the settler's land should be regarded as his property when he received his patent. He quoted from THE GLOBE of the time to show that that journal had contended that the Government were not dealing in a spirit of liberality or fairness with settlers. The authorities he had cited were unanimous that something more ought to be done than was proposed under the Act. It was certainly a great hardship upon the settler that when he took his patent he did not become the possessor of all that was on the land. To make him the owner of the land would be not only of great service to himself, but to the mill-owner who established a mill in the locality. He would be glad if the Government would during the present session see their way clear to do what he suggested. The privileges at present accorded the settler were not a sufficient recompense to him for his outlay and his enterprise. Under the present system bad feeling was engendered between the settler and the lumberman, for naturally the settler could not be expected to regard with complacency the lumberman who entered his land without asking permission and removed the timber. Amongst other changes that he would like to see introduced was an alteration of the clause requiring the purchaser to reside upon the lot. Instead of five years he would like to see the term reduced to three years, as it stood now in Manitoba. Anyone who had resided three years on his lot and had put up sufficient buildings and done sufficient clearing, had given a sufficient guarantee of his bona fides. Then he saw no good in the clause making residence compulsory. He wanted the term of residence, too, reduced from five to three years; moreover, there should be some reservation of the lumber for the use of the settler. In many parts of Muskoka and Parry Sound lumber was dearer than it was in Toronto to-day, simply because the whole of the timber had been cleared off great areas of country. There should be, in his opinion, 50,000 feet of timber reserved for the use of the settler at whatever time he might desire to use it. He proposed, therefore, to amend the bill before the House by the addition of clauses containing provisions of the nature he had indicated, which he would move later.

#### MR. HARDY'S REPLY.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands said it was a singular fact that although Mr. Marter had been in the House for four years he had