

April 24, 1874

3. That it is expedient to amend the law respecting carriers by water, by better defining their liabilities.

4. That it is expedient to provide for the removal of obstructions by wrecks and like causes in the navigable waters of Canada, and for other purposes respecting wrecks.

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GRANTS TO MANITOBA SETTLERS

Hon. Mr. LAIRD moved that the House go into Committee on Tuesday to consider the following resolutions respecting the appropriation of certain Dominion lands in Manitoba:

1. That inasmuch by the Act 33 Vic., Cap. 3, 1,400,000 acres of land were appropriated for the children of half-breed heads of families residing in the Province of Manitoba at the time of its transfer to Canada towards the extinguishment of the Indian title, but no provision was made for like purposes as respects the half-breed heads of families themselves, it is therefore expedient to make such provision by authorizing the Governor in Council in his discretion, and under regulations to be made in that behalf, to grant to each half-breed head of a family resident in the Province of Manitoba on the 15th July, 1870, 160 acres of land or scrip for \$160, receivable in payment for Dominion lands.

2. That it is expedient to provide that for the purposes aforesaid, the terms, "Half-breed heads of families" shall be held to include half-breed mothers as well as half-breed fathers, or both, as the case may be; but the land or scrip to which any half-breed mother is entitled shall be granted or allotted and given to such half-breed mother on such conditions as the Governor in Council may from time to time determine, and that in the event of the death of a half-breed father or half-breed mother, or both, between the 15th day of July, 1870, and the granting of the land or the issuing of the scrip, the land or scrip to which such half-breed or head of family is entitled shall be granted or distributed to such members of the family on such conditions as the Governor in Council may determine.

3. That it is expedient to repeal subsection 4 of section 32 of the said Act 33 Vic., Cap. 3, which provides that all persons in peaceable possession of tracts of land at the time of the transfer to Canada, in those parts of said Province in which the Indian title has not been extinguished, shall have the right of pre-emption of the same on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Governor in Council, and to provide that all titles by peaceable possession of tracts of land at the time of the transfer of Canada in those parts of the said Province in which the Indian title had not at the said time been extinguished shall, if required by the owner, be converted into an estate in fee simple by a grant from the Crown.

4. That, whereas, by the Act 36 Vic., Cap. 37, it was provided that 49,000 acres should be set apart from the ungranted lands of the Crown in Manitoba, to be divided as free grants to persons resident in the Province, being original white settlers who came to the country under the auspices of Lord Selkirk between the years 1813 and 1835, both inclusive, or the children, not being half-breeds, of such original settlers, of whom by an inexact census the number of claimants was assumed not to exceed 350, and the grant

of land, 49,000 acres, was estimated accordingly; whereas an accurate census of such persons and their children show they number 530 or thereabouts, and an equal division of the land so set apart as above would only give to each claimant 92 acres, 4 roads, and 10 perches, and it is expedient to recognize the right of each of such claimants to a grant of 140 acres, and whereas the said persons and children have requested that such grant may be by an issue of scrip, it is therefore expedient to provide that each and every person resident of the said Province, being original white settlers who came into the Red River country, whether under the auspices of Lord Selkirk or otherwise, between the years 1813 and 1835, both inclusive, or the children, not being half-breeds, of such original settlers shall be entitled under regulation to be made by the Governor in Council, to receive scrip for \$140, the same to be receivable in payment for the purchase of Dominion lands, and to repeal the said Act 36 Vic., Cap. 31.

The resolutions were carried.

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THE ELECTION BILL

Hon. Mr. DORION, in moving that the Speaker do now leave the chair, said that about the only previous objections made to this Bill was in regard to the proposal to abolish public nominations. He had come to the conclusion that it was desirable to abolish public nominations, not only because they now existed nowhere except in Canada—that they had been abolished in England, France, Belgium, the United States and Australia which in itself was a grave presumption in favour of the view that public nominations were not absolutely necessary—but also because the experience of other countries had shown that they were likely to lead to great excitement and to prevent that calm and just appreciation of the circumstances which ought to lead the electors in the selection of the candidates.

And in Canada itself several such incidents had occurred, notably those at Kamouraska in 1867, when the poll booth was torn down and several were injured; in the affray in Quebec East in 1873 and in 1874 and in Quebec Centre in 1872; in the local election for that division in 1871, when Mr. Langevin was elected by acclamation because the nominator of the other candidate was prevented from reaching the hustings; in Charlevoix in 1872 and 1874; in Montreal East in 1867 and in 1872; in the election for the Legislative Council for the Alma division in 1856; in Chicoutimi in 1874; in Montmagny in 1867; in L'Islet, where no nomination had been possible from 1857 to 1872; and in other cases. These were, he thought, sufficient reasons for the abolition of a public nomination. The experience in other countries and in municipal elections in Lower Canada showed that without public nominations elections took place by acclamation.

With regard to the franchise, he could see no reason for the absolute uniformity, which seemed to be what some gentlemen desired. There was now a different franchise in cities from that in counties; and in England there were several different franchises. He would introduce several amendments in Committee.