

including all the colonies of Australia, New Zealand, in British Columbia, and in some parts of the Indian Possessions, it has been most satisfactory in its working, and has met to the fullest extent the objections of those who were opposed to its introduction, and that it is a measure which can be safely adopted in any Province, Colony or Territory in the position of the North-West Territory. Very recently a publication has been made in the United Kingdom by the incorporated Law Society, which, as we all know, is composed of gentlemen who are qualified in the highest degree to give an independent and wise opinion upon the value of a measure of this kind. I have had the opportunity of giving some attention to their publication, and I have been struck by nothing in it more than by this fact that every objection which they make to the introduction of such a scheme as this into the United Kingdom, is one which, I am happy to say, we are free from in legislating in regard to the North-West Territory. In the first place, there are the great disadvantages which any change in the Land Laws involves in the Mother Country, in the disturbance of the habits, the prejudices and the customs of the country, in relation to the holding, transfer and settlement of land; and there is also the difficulty of bringing before the registrar titles of great age, involving great difficulties, causing a great deal of delay and expense in their investigation, and, more especially, the difficulty which exists there in connection with the identification of persons and in relation to the changing of boundaries from time to time. In the North-West Territory we have a system of survey which is peculiarly advantageous in regard to the application of a system like this, and, what is of more consequence, we have proximity to the root of the title itself. The titles now in existence there are of modern date in comparison with those which exist in other countries, and we have yet to issue very many of the titles to those lands which will no doubt be called for in the course of a few years. These circumstances make it desirable, I think, that a Bill like this should be adopted in relation to the North-West Territory, and I therefore move its first reading.

Mr. MILLS. This is, no doubt, a very important subject, and one which, I believe, the Government or one of their supporters has introduced to the attention of the House on some previous occasions. As early as 1873 I had the honor, as a member of the Government of my hon. friend from East York, to introduce a measure on the same subject, or one of a cognate character, and that has been upon the statute book from that day to this, but the portion of the measure which provided for the registration of titles has never been dealt with up to the present moment. I know that, on that occasion, the organs of the hon. gentleman who leads the Government took very strong ground against the proposed change in the registration of titles for real property. I suppose, now that the measure emanates from that side of the House and has the support of the Minister of Justice it will receive different treatment from what it did some years ago. Of course I do not know what the provisions of the Bill, as introduced by the Minister of Justice, are, but I think there were some serious defects in the measures which the hon. gentleman on that side of the House submitted to the consideration of Parliament on this subject. I may mention one or two of those defects. The Bill provided that property, on the death of an intestate, should vest in the real or personal representative, but it made no provision whatever for the partition of the estate. Now, unless that is done, there will be really no provision for the registration of the estate in the interest of the various owners to whom it would devolve by succession. Of course, I will not say anything with respect to the provisions of the hon. gentleman's Bill, because I have not got it before me,

and cannot discuss it in this respect, but I have no doubt that it will be a very great improvement upon the law as it now stands—that it will greatly facilitate the searches made in respect to titles, and will cheapen the transfer of real property. Unless, however, the hon. gentleman's Bill does provide for the registration or partition of estates, it will certainly be defective.

Mr. THOMPSON (Antigonish). If I understand the hon. gentleman's objection, the Bill provides for it, but I will carefully consider his suggestion.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

Mr. CHARLTON moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 11) for the more effectual prevention of Cruelty to Animals. He said: This Bill was introduced last Session, but at too late a date to receive the consideration of the House. It imposes penalties for maliciously killing animals, for unlawfully and maliciously attempting to kill, for acts of wanton cruelty, for injury done to animals in driving, for using live animals as targets, and for neglecting impounded animals. It also makes provisions with regard to the transportation of live stock on railways, the feeding of such animals, periods of rest, care of cars, etc. The Bill, when printed and distributed, will, I trust, in its humane and merciful provisions, receive the approbation of the members of this House.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

MORTGAGES ON REAL ESTATE.

Mr. McMULLEN moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 12) to amend the Act relating to interest on moneys secured by mortgage on real estate. He said: In 1880 an Act was passed providing that moneys secured by real estate mortgage, if paid after the lapse of a certain period, could be paid off on certain conditions. One condition was that the mortgagor should pay three months' interest in advance. I propose to alter that clause, providing that three months' notice may be given. I also propose to shorten the period from five years to three years, as mortgages are now usually drawn upon real estate for a period of five years. I also propose to put in another clause that will permit the mortgagee or any other person entitled to pay the encumbrance on any property to pay it off at a shorter date than three years under certain conditions.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

SUPREME COURT.

Mr. LANDRY (Montmagny) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 13) to limit the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court as respects matters of a purely local nature in the Province of Quebec.

Several hon. MEMBERS. Explain.

Mr. LANDRY. The title explains for those who want to understand.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

TIMBER LICENSES IN THE DISPUTED TERRITORY.

Mr. WALLACE (York) enquired, How many applications have been made for licenses to cut timber within what is known as the "Disputed Territory" since 1872, giving the number in each year? How many Orders in Council were passed authorising the issue of such licenses, giving the number in each year? How many licenses were actually issued, stating the number in each year and the period for which they were issued respectively? The amount paid for ground rent of timber limits, stating the number of payments made on passage of the Orders in