

*Department of Justice, Canada, Ottawa, May 26, 1875.*

The Undersigned has the honour to report—

That, at the last Session of the Legislature of Prince Edward Island, a Bill was passed by both Houses, intituled, "The Land Purchase Act, 1875," which has been reserved by the Lieutenant-Governor for the signification of the pleasure of your Excellency in Council.

The objects in this Bill are the same as those contemplated in the Bill passed during the previous Session, intituled, "The Land Purchase Act, 1874," which was also reserved for the signification of your Excellency's pleasure, but which was not assented to by your Excellency for reasons contained in a Report of the Minister of Justice of the 23rd December, 1874. By referring to this Report it will be observed that the reason adduced for withholding your Excellency's assent was chiefly that no provision was made for an impartial arbitration, or in which the proprietors would have a representation in arriving at the value of their property; neither did it seem to provide for a speedy determination of the matters in dispute between the parties interested.

In the Bill which is now referred, those objections have been removed, and a fair representation of the interests of all parties concerned has been provided for, and an impartial tribunal has been insured to each proprietor, the Bill providing for the appointment of three arbitrators—one to be named by the land proprietor, another to be named by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and the third by your Excellency in Council.

The Undersigned is of opinion that the subject dealt with in the Bill is one coming within the competence of a provincial Legislature, and inasmuch as the objectionable features of the previous Bill have been removed, the Undersigned recommends that the Reserved Bill intituled, "The Land Purchase Act, 1875," receive the assent of your Excellency in Council.

(Signed) T. FOURNIER, *Acting Minister of Justice.*

---