

had rendered the King valuable service in his struggle for the independence of his country. Bruce had taken refuge one night in the Captain's house, and before leaving in the morning he took his host to an eminence near his domicile and declared that should he succeed and become King of Scotland he would reward him with an estate of land as far as he could see in every direction. When

BRUCE, OF SCOTLAND,

triumphed and was firmly established on the throne he faithfully discharged the pledge given in adversity. He granted Capt. McNeil a large tract of land several miles in extent, fourteen long and eight broad, entailing it upon him and his descendants.

This estate is in Argyllshire, Scotland, alongside that of the Duke of Argyll, and is called the

"ESTATE OF NGADALE."

It has come down since Bruce's time in the McNeil family from father to son. Some three generations ago, however there was a break in the direct succession, Capt. Hector McNeil possessor and owner, dying without legal issue Captain Hector's brother, (the grandfather of Mr. Allen Pringle's mother) and his descendants then became the legal heirs, but his brother was dead. His only son and heir, Francis McNeil, Mr. Pringle's grandfather, had been in America for many years and was not known to be alive. It is understood the formality of advertising was gone through, but no tidings received of the missing heir, and it is safe to say that those who had in prospective the usurpation of the estate were not particularly anxious that Francis McNeil or any of his kin should be found.

OLD CAPTAIN HECTOR MCNEIL,

who died without legal issue, had an illegitimate son, and it was he who got possession in the absence of legal heirs. Francis McNeil, who was struggling amidst the hardships and adversities of colonial life, was unaware of the fortune that was rightfully his until a short time before his death, and did nothing further than to make some enquiries as to the truth of the report. Before the old gentleman died, however, he assigned all his interest and claims in the premises to

MR. ALLEN PRINGLE.

The latter immediately set about looking the matter up. He wrote to two parties at Campbelltown, Argyllshire, for full information. Both parties addressed were strangers, but the names had been given him as men whom he could rely upon to give correctly the information sought,

one being a clergyman and the other a lawyer. Both responded, but were so utterly discouraging that, relying upon their statement, Mr. Pringle abandoned all investigation, unwilling to "throw away good money after bad." Of late, however, he received information which led to the conviction that he had been

DECEIVED AND MISLED

by the two parties to whom he had written for information, and that they were evidently in collusion with or under the influence of the usurpers in possession of the estate, and hence had withheld or misstated the facts.

Mr Pringle is now in communication with an eminent Scotch lawyer, who cannot be bought over, and with others equally true and reliable, and he expects in the near future to receive advice and information on which he can rely. That he could have recovered the rich estate of Ngadale 20 years ago, immediately after the assignment from his grandfather, when he first made the inquiry, he is very certain, and the chief obstacle he has to fear is that the usurpers may hold the property by right of undisturbed possession.

Mr. Pringle will probably go to Scotland in the fall to look after his interests in the matter.

From the Parkhill Review.

MIDDLESEX BEE-KEEPERS.

Strathroy, March 13th, 1889.

SIXTH annual meeting of the Middlesex Bee-Keepers' Association.

Meeting called to order by the President, F. Atkinson, at 1.30 p.m. in the Firemen's Hall. Fifty present.

Secretary-Treasurer Humphries was called upon to read the minutes of last meeting and submit report.

Minutes read and approved.

The Treasurer reports that he has received \$10 for membership fees and \$35 from the O. B. K. A., \$17 of which has been paid out for prizes at Ailsa Craig and Parkhill fairs, and that Strathroy was offered but refused to accept any money from us as an association to be given in prizes for honey. Printing, etc., \$13, leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands of \$15.

Moved and seconded that the reports be accepted.—Carried.

Nomination and election being now in order, the President asked for nominations for President.

Messrs. W. J. Wilson, of Greenway, and J. B. Aches, of Poplar Hill, were the candidates. W. J. Wilson was elected.