

## PUBLIC LANDS BILL.

## THIRD READING.

HON. MR. ABBOTT moved the third reading of Bill (W) "An Act respecting grants of Public Lands." He said: This Bill passed through Committee yesterday, but there was one point in it respecting which some questions were put to me, that I was not at the time prepared to answer with a proper degree of precision. The Bill is intended in the main to reconcile the system of grants made by the Government with the system of transmission of property known as the Torrens' system, and it was pointed out that it applied not only to the Province of Manitoba and the North-West Territories, where the Torrens' system exists, but also to Ontario, where it only partially exists. For the moment I saw some difficulty in that fact, and desired to have time to consider the Bill. I find now, as a fact, that the main object of the Bill is to reconcile the two systems; but, in the Province of Ontario there has been a law passed which provides for the devolution of property, and which makes real estate passing from a deceased person personal estate, that is, it goes to his personal representatives, exactly as under the Torrens' system the land passes to the persons who represent it, and, therefore, the Bill is intended not only to harmonize the present system—the form of the patent with the Torrens' system—but also to harmonize in Ontario, in the limited area in which this has anything to do with it, the land grant with the system of devolution of property under the legislation adopted in 1886.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

## NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES BILL.

## COMMITTEE POSTPONED.

The Order of the Day having been read, "Committee of the whole House on Bill (V) "An Act to amend the Acts respecting the North-West Territories."

HON. MR. ABBOTT—There are certain points which will come up on the discussion of this Bill, and one or two which have been brought to the notice of the Government lately, and which are now under consideration, and for these reasons I ask that the Order of the Day be discharged, and that it stand as an order for Tuesday next.

The motion was agreed to, and the Order of the Day was discharged.

## SASKATCHEWAN RAILWAY AND MINING CO.'S BILL.

## SECOND READING.

HON. MR. READ (Quinté) moved the second reading of Bill (34) "An Act to amend the Act to incorporate the Saskatchewan Railway and Mining Company." He said: This Bill extends the time of commencing the construction of the railway and also authorizes a connection with the Hudson Bay Railway.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

## BILLS OF EXCHANGE AND PROMISSORY NOTES BILL.

## IN COMMITTEE.

The House resumed in Committee of the Whole the consideration of Bill (6) "An Act relating to Bills of Exchange, Cheques and Promissory Notes."

(In the Committee.)

On the 32nd clause.—

HON. MR. ABBOTT said: Sub-section 2 is changed in some degree but not materially. This is a modification of section 4 of the English Act. There is a form of endorsement which is common in the Province of Quebec and not unknown elsewhere in the Dominion. I am not satisfied that this clause provides for that endorsement. It is known as endorsement *pour aval*. It is true this clause has reference to the transfer of a bill, but I think that the amendment that I suggest could be made at the end of the clause.

HON. MR. POWER—This clause deals altogether with the transferring of bills.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Although it says in the first portion of this clause, that it purports to deal with the negotiation of a bill, still the third and fourth sub-sections do not seem to deal exclusively with that subject, and we might with propriety treat this clause in a more comprehensive way.

HON. MR. DRUMMOND—I would venture to suggest that if a person is wrongly designated in a bill, and endorses it as therein stated, he should be compelled to attach his proper signature. Under such