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1st Session, 8th Parliament, 27 Victoria, 1861

BILL.

An Act to change the tenure of the India Lands in the Township of Dundee.

Received and read, 1st time, Monday, 31 August, 1863. Second reading, Wednesday, 2nd Septer ber, 1863.

Mr. Somerville.

PRINTED FOR THE CONTRACTORS BY HUNTED ROSE & LEMIEUX ST. URSULE STREET.

RILL

No. 26.1

[1863.—2nd Sess

An Act to change the tenure of the Indian lands in the Township of Dundee, in the County of Huntingdon.

WHEREAS the Township of Dundee in Lower Canada, containing Preamble. an area of eleven thousand one hundred and eighty-one acres of land, was set apart for the use and benefit of the Indians of the Tribe Iroquois of Saint Regis, at an early period of the Government of 5 Canada, as an Indian Reservation: And whereas the said Indians have through their representatives appointed by Her Majesty's Government, leased all their rights, in such lands for fixed ground rents, and have given up possession of the same, after having so leased and conveyed them, and the parties to whom such lands were so conveyed, have, at 10 great expense, cleared the same, erected buildings thereon, and otherwise improved them, thereby greatly enhancing their value: And whereas doubts have arisen respecting the legality of the said leases or conveyances, and such doubts tend to obstruct the further improvement of such lands, and it is desirable, and for the interest of the said In-15 dians as well as, of the individuals holding such lands, and for the community generally, that all such doubts should be removed and the said Indians duly compensated, and that the purchasers and lessees shall have the right of redemption of such lands: Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and As-20 sembly of Canada, enacts as follows:

1. All leases baux emphytéotiques, or baux à longues années granted Leases made by the St. Regis Indians, or their representatives, of the said lands of before a certhe Township of Dundee, which shall have been passed before the first firmed. , one thousand eight hundred and

25 which at the time the same were executed, or prior to the date above mentioned, were approved by a recognized agent of the Indian Department, shall be considered to have been legally made; Provided always, that an annual ground rent of not less than at the rate of five dollars for each lot of one hundred acres, French measure, shall have been 30 stipulated in favor of the said Indians.

2. Any purchaser or lessee, or the heirs, representatives, assignee or Proviso: assignees of any purchaser or lessee of any lot or part of a lot of the to reserved Indian lands in the Township of Dundee, now in the possession of the rent. same, may redeem the rent annually accruing upon such land or lot, or

35 part of lot of land, under the leases mentioned in the preceding section of this Act, by paying to the Indians, in addition to any arrears that may be due, the capital represented by such rent at the rate of six per cent., which payment as to capital shall be made to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, as Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs, who is 40 hereby authorized to receive the same and grant duplicate receipts

therefor, according to Schedule A of this Act; Provided such redemp- Provise. tion shall be made within five years after the passing of this Act.

Receipt for redemption money to be a good title, when regis tered B Every such receipt after the enregistration thereof in the Registry Office of the County of Huntingdon, shall, as between the person obtaining the same and the said Indians, be equivalent to a title under letters patent of the Government, and shall discharge every such lot or part of a lot designated in such receipt from all future rents or other 5 charges which have heretofore been payable on the same in favor of the said Indians for whose benefit such lands were reserved by the Government.

Accounts to be kept &c 4. The said Commissioner of Crown Lands, as Superintendent of Indian Affairs, shall keep an account of all sums deposited in his hands 10 and shall pay over the interest thereon annually or semi-annually to the said Indians in any way which he may deem most beneficial to them.

Public Act

5. This Act shall be a Public Act.