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No. 195.

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2de Session, 7th Parliament, 26 Victoria, 1863.

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**BILL.**

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

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Received and read, first time, Wednesday, 18th  
March, 1863.

Second reading, Thursday, 19th March, 1863.

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**MR. SOMERVILLE.**

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**QUEBEC.**

PRINTED FOR THE CONTRACTORS BY HUNTER,  
ROSE & LEMIEUX, ST. URSULE ST.

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

**W**HEREAS the Township of Dundee in Lower Canada, containing Preamble.  
 an area of eleven thousand one hundred and eight-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 to 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 other-  
 wise 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 com-  
 munity 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 cer-  
 the Township of Dundee, which shall have been passed before the first tain day con-  
 day of \_\_\_\_\_, one thousand eight hundred and \_\_\_\_\_, and firmed.  
 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 Depart-  
 ment, shall be considered to have been legally made; Provided always, Proviso: as  
 that an annual ground rent of not less than at the rate of five dollars to reserved  
 for each lot of one hundred acres, French measure, shall have been rent.  
 30 stipulated in favor of the said Indians.

**2.** Any purchaser or lessee, or the heirs, representatives, assignee or Provision for  
 assignees of any purchaser or lessee of any lot or part of a lot of the redeeming  
 Indian lands in the Township of Dundee, now in the possession of the the annual  
 same, may redeem the rent annually accruing upon such land or lot, or rent.  
 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 hereby  
 40 authorized to receive the same and grant duplicate receipts therefor, ac-  
 cording to Schedule A of this Act; Provided such redemption shall be Proviso.  
 made within five years after the passing of this Act.

Receipt for redemption money to be a good title, when registered.

**3.** 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 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. **5**

Account 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 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. **10**

Public Act.

**5.** This Act shall be a Public Act.