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No. 39.

3rd Session, 5th Parliament, 20 Victoria, 1857.

BILL.

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

Received and read, first time, Wednesday, 4th March, 1857.

Second reading, Monday, 9th March, 1857.

MR. SOMERVILLE.

T O R O N T O :
PRINTED BY JOHN LOVELL, YONGE STREET.

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 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 of St. Regis, at an early period of the government of Canada, as an Indian Reservation : And whereas the said Indians have, through their representatives appointed by the Government, leased or alienated all their rights to such lands for fixed ground rents, and have abandoned the same after having so conveyed them ; and the parties to whom such lands were so conveyed have at 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, and such doubts tend to obstruct the further improvement of the said lands, and it is desirable, and for the interest of the said Indians as well as of the individuals holding said lands, and for the community generally, that all such doubts be removed and the said Indians duly compensated ; Therefore Her Majesty, &c., enacts as follows :

I. All leases granted by the St. Regis Indians, or their representatives, of the said lands in the Township of Dundee, shall hereafter be considered to have been legally made: Provided always, that an annual ground rent of not less than five dollars for each lot of one hundred acres shall have been stipulated in favor of the said Indians.

Leases granted by St. Regis Indians confirmed. Provided a certain rent has been reserved.

II. Any purchaser of any lot or part of a lot of the Indian lands in the Township of Dundee, now in possession of the same, may, if he thinks fit, redeem the rent attached to such land or lot of land by any instrument within the provisions of the preceding section, and payable to the Indians or their legal representatives, by paying the capital thereof at the rate of six per cent., to the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, who is hereby authorized to receive every such deposit and give a receipt therefor, according to Schedule A of this Act.

Purchasers in possession of lots, may redeem the rent charged thereon, and how.

III. Every such receipt, after the enregistration thereof in the Registry Office of the County of Huntingdon, shall 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 rents or other charges which may have theretofore been payable on the same in favor of the Indian or Indians to whom such lands were granted by the Government.

Receipt for redemption money to be equivalent to a Patent.

IV. The said Superintendent General of Indian Affairs shall keep an account of all sums deposited in his hands, and shall pay the interest thereon annually to the Indians, their legal representatives or assigns according to the proportion to which they are entitled in respect of such property.

Interest of redemption money to be paid to the Indians.

Act not to affect claims of parties to the lands, &c.

V. Nothing in this Act contained shall have the effect of determining in any manner the merits of conflicting titles of parties having claims to the said Indian lands in Dundee, or of rendering valid contracts made by any parties with any others than the Patentee or Patentees, or his or their heirs or representatives.

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Public Act.

VI. This Act shall be deemed a Public Act.

SCHEDULE A.

I hereby certify that _____, now in possession of _____, in the _____ range of the Township of Dundee (*here give a description of the lot or part of lot occupied by the person to whom the receipt shall have been given: If a whole lot, or the one-half of a lot is in question, it shall be sufficient to describe it by the numbers of the lot and range, but if a smaller part than one-half be referred to, the limits and bounds must be set forth*) has, this day, paid to me the sum of _____, being the capital of a ground rent attached to said lot (or part of lot) of land, and that the said sum has been paid to me for the purpose of redeeming the said land from all rent, as provided by the Act intitled, *An Act to change the tenure of the Indian lands in the Township of Dundee, in the County of Huntington*, and to avail him as in law may appertain.

Done in duplicate, at _____, this _____ day of _____, one thousand eight hundred and _____

A. B.,
Superintendent General of Indian Affairs.