

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell** explained that New Brunswick had legislated on the subject, and so had set aside the Imperial Statute, but surely if the provisions of the Imperial Act are now in force in Nova Scotia, there could be no valid or well grounded objection to the present time for formally enacting it.

**Hon. Mr. Skead** had considerable experience going up and down the river St. Lawrence, and was satisfied the old Canada Act had given great and universal satisfaction, and he had yet to learn that any well grounded, or any, complaints had ever been made of its provisions. He hoped, therefore, the Minister of Marine would not consent even to exempt ferry boats. He had some interest in several tow boats on the Ottawa, and would concur with the Hon. Minister of Marine in saying that the cost of lights was very trifling. The hon. gentleman explained fully how rafts were required to be lighted to avoid doing damage to vessels, and on the whole highly approved of the bill.

The bill was then read a second time, and ordered to be considered in Committee of the Whole to-morrow.

**Hon. Mr. Chapais** brought in a Bill relating to agriculture, which was read a first time, and the second reading ordered on Tuesday next.

The consideration of the Whiteaves Divorce Bill was postponed until Tuesday next.

The "Banque Nationale" Bill was postponed until to-morrow week.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Secretary of State's Departmental Bill. Mr. Miller in the chair.

**Hon. Mr. Macpherson** called the attention of the Government to the fact of persons having bought certain Indian lands in the Saugeen Peninsula at from eight to ten dollars per acre, to be paid by instalments, and the land not being worth that amount those settlers had made application to the Government to make a reduction in price, but they were met by the statement that the Government had not the power, because the lands are held in trust for the Indians. In some cases several parties agreed that their first instalments should apply to one or more lots, and thus release the other lots held by them. This did very well for the speculators, who having bought more than one lot consolidated their first instalments and liquidated all they owed to the Government, but it was of no use to the settler who had

only one lot. The object of the Government should be to relieve the settler, rather than the speculator. To show the hardship of the settlers having to pay this amount for their land, he would state that the land adjoining sold for one dollar and half per acre. The Government should have power to extinguish the Indian claims altogether, and to deal with the settlers as they may deem equitable and right in each case. His object was to give the Government power to set a value upon those lands and to exchange a landed trust for a money trust on behalf of the Indians, and at the same time deal liberally with them. He would ask whether the Government have this power under the bill.

**Hon. Mr. Mitchell** said he was obliged to his hon. friend for calling the attention of the Government as to whether they had sufficient power under this bill to carry out the object proposed. He would suggest that they had better go on with the bill until they came to the section it was proposed to alter, and then let it stand over for further consideration.

**Hon. Mr. Aikins** had no objection to proceeding with the bill, as had been suggested by the Hon. Minister of Marine, but at the same time he agreed with the remarks made by his hon. friend, (Mr. Macpherson.) He had some knowledge of the hardships experienced by settlers upon those lands. He had known many individuals who had purchased those lands with the intention of becoming *bona fide* settlers, and who had to pay more for those lands than they were worth, while the Government would not give them that consideration to which they were entitled. He had known many cases where they had forfeited their first payments and given up their lands. It was very desirable in the interests of the public generally that this trust should become a money, instead of a land trust. The Government of the Dominion should be the trustees to sell the land, and hold the money on behalf of the Indians. Owing to the manner under which those lands are held at present, they are not occupied, but if they were held under a different system they would soon be settled.

Several sections of the bill were then passed, when

On motion of **Hon. Mr. Mitchell** progress was reported, and leave asked to sit again to-morrow.

The House then adjourned until three o'clock to-morrow.