

## SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, the 31st day of July, 1882.

## NOTICES RELATING TO ORDERS OF THE DAY.

## LAND ACT 1877 AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. HUTCHISON, in Committee, to move the following amendments:—

After clause 1, and before clause 2, to insert the following new clause:—

*a.* The words or expressions following have in this Act the meaning herein assigned to them respectively, unless anything in the context is repugnant to such meaning:—

“The Board” is the County Council or any Committee thereof appointed for the special purposes of this Act, or any local Board elected or appointed, or hereafter to be elected or appointed, for the management of lands belonging to the State:

“Improvements” mean any buildings or fences the occupier may erect; any roads he may construct; any hedges, trees, shrubs, or flowers he may plant; any drainage he may effect; any crops he may sow; any increase of fertility consequent on artificial or other manures, or resulting from his labour; and earnings of all kinds and of every description laid upon or in the soil.

This interpretation of “improvements” shall apply to all lands now or hereafter to be occupied by persons paying a yearly rental to the State or to any corporate or public body.

“Valuation” means the yearly rental of the land without improvements. It shall only take into account from time to time any unearned increment, or, conversely, any decrease of value, consequent in either case upon a general increase or decrease of value in all descriptions of property in the particular locality.

Strike out all the clauses from 3 to 39, both inclusive, with the view of inserting the following new clauses in lieu thereof:—

*b.* Every farm let under this Act shall be valued by competent valuers appointed by the Governor, and fixed at a moderate yearly rental, to be marked upon a map of the block specially prepared for the purposes of this Act, and the farms shall be open for selection by applicants in the order of time of their several applications.

When two or more persons apply for the same farm, the occupier shall be decided by ballot.

*c.* After twenty years, and at the end of every twenty years thereafter, a fresh valuation of the lands thus occupied shall be made by arbitration, as hereinafter enacted.

*d.* Every successful applicant for a farm shall forthwith pay a half-year's rent in advance, and make a statutory declaration of his intention to reside permanently on the land, as set forth in the First Schedule (Schedule to be abridged and amended) hereto, when he shall be declared the occupier in perpetuity of the farm he has selected.

Non-payment of rent, except in special cases, and non-residence shall involve forfeiture of occupancy and loss of the value of improvements, the land and the improvements alike reverting to the State.

*e.* Improvements, with the exception above stated, shall be the sole property of the occupiers, who may at any time, with the consent of the Board, transfer their occupancy and sell their improvements to any persons willing to pay the rent and make the statutory declaration of residence.

Omit clauses 53, 54, 55, and 56, and substitute as follows:—

Any deferred-payment settler who is in arrear of the instalments due by him in respect of his purchase from the State of deferred-payment land shall be permitted the alternative of waiving his right of purchase of the said land, and instead thereof he may elect to retain possession of the same, under the occupancy clauses of this Act, on payment of an annual rent to be fixed by arbitration:

Provided always that the payments already made by any such deferred-payment settler shall be reckoned as payment of the rental of his occupancy, and that the said occupancy shall be reckoned as commencing from the date at which he obtained possession of the land as a deferred-payment settler.