

# SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, the 13th Day of October, 1899.

### NATIVE LAND LAWS AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. HEKE, in Committee, to move the following new clause:—

Where a Native, according to Native custom or usage, has adopted or shall adopt a child, then, upon the death of such Native, the following provisions as to the appointment of a successor to such deceased Native's property shall apply:—

- (a.) If the deceased Native leaves him surviving children or the issue of children, or a grandfather, father, grandmother, or mother, the Court shall not award to such adopted child a greater share than that awarded to the surviving children or issue of children, grandfather, father, grandmother, or mother, as the case may be.
- (b.) If the deceased Native leaves him surviving brothers and sisters, or the issue of brothers and sisters, but no children or issue of children, or grandfather, father, grandmother, or mother, then the Court may award to such adopted child a share not greater than three-fourths.
- (c.) In all other cases, except as hereinbefore provided, the Court may award the whole of the deceased Native's property to the adopted child.

Provided always that in any of the above cases, if the Court is satisfied that the adopted child has property, or is according to Native custom and usage likely to succeed to property, it may take such fact into consideration, and diminish the share of the adopted child in the property of the deceased Native, and may altogether exclude such adopted child from any share in such property.

Notwithstanding any devise or bequest by the will of the deceased Native to an adopted child, the provisions of this section shall apply, and the Court may limit the effect of any such devise or bequest so as to carry into effect the provisions of this section.

The Court in exercising the powers conferred by this section shall be guided by equity and good conscience solely.