**SCRUB LANDS BILL 1875**

**House of Assembly, 13 October 1875, pages 1383-4**

Second reading

**The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. P. Boucaut), for the Minister of Agriculture**, moved—

“ That he have leave to introduce a Bill to revive certain enactments relating to Scrub Lands.”

He said the Scrub Lands Act was found to be very useful during operation, and it was inadvertently repealed. The object of the Government now was to re-enact the old Scrub Lands Act. During the long recess the Government intended to prepare a Consolidated Land Bill, but he hoped when a measure which would involve so much care and expense in preparing was brought up that it would not be neglected because there were one or two points which hon members might not approve of.

Mr. KRICHAUFF was exceedingly glad that even at that late period of the session the Government proposed to re-enact the Scrub Lands law, which would be of great advantage to one class of farmers.

Mr. HAWKER was pleased to hear that the Government proposed to prepare a Consolidated Land Bill. He hoped they would give consideration to the very arbitrary character of the compulsory clauses of the Land Act. If he took evidence he would find that it was utterly impossible to carry out some of those clauses, even with the best intentions on the part of the selectors. If those clauses were strictly carried out, one half the sections would have to be forfeited. He hoped, also, the Government would propose some better plan of dealing with the land than that proposed in the Bill which had been withdrawn. He would have infinitely preferred the plan proposed by Mr. Krichauff to that in the Government Bill, and he trusted next session the Government would bring forward a Consolidation Land Bill which would meet with the approbation of the House.

Mr. COGLIN had placed more implicit confidence in this Government than any before, and he was glad they had introduced this question, because he had received letters from his constituents urging the desirableness of re-enacting the old measure.

Mr. HANNAFORD was very pleased that the Government had promised to bring in a Consolidated Land Bill next session; and he was glad also that they proposed at once to reinstate the Scrub Lands Act. The repeal of that Act had precluded thousands of acres of scrub lands in his district being taken up.

The motion was carried.

The MINISTER of AGRICULTURE and EDUCATION (Hon. E. Ward) introduced the Bill, which was read a first time. The Standing Orders were suspended to enable the Bill to pass through its remaining stages. On the motion that the Bill be read a second time,

Mr. DUNCAN asked if this Bill was a precise copy of the old Scrub Lands Act.

The SPEAKER said it was not a copy of the old Bill, but was simply a clause calling into operation the old Scrub Lands Act.

The MINSTER of AGRICULTURE and EDUCATION Hon. E. Ward) said the first legislation upon the subject was in 1866, when the original Scrub Lands Act had been passed. It enabled holders of land under the other Bill to take up 640 acres of scrub land at a minimum rent of 10s. per annum, for the whole block, with the right of purchase at £1 an acre. In 1867 another Act had been passed which enabled blocks of land offered for sale and forfeited to be taken up. The two Acts were found to work well together, and in 1871 another Act was passed with the sole object of extending the operation of that law. It had been accidentally repealed, and several attempts made to re-enact it had met with failure from various causes. If this Bill passed he was in a position to state that under the operation of the Acts he had named, 179 agreements, had been executed, and were in force over a total area of 40 000 acres. If the Bill were re-enacted there would at once be 80,000 acres available for selection on the following day, besides fresh areas that could be declared, (Hear, hear.)

The Bill was read a second time.

In Committee.

The preamble was postponed.

Clause 1. Pe-enactment of Scrub Land Acts.

Mr. KRICHAUFF feared the Minister of Agriculture and Education would find that much of the land that he thought would be open under this had been taken up under another Act.

The MINISTER of AGRICULTURE and EDUCATION (Hon. E. Ward) had the information which he had stated to the House from the Surveyor-General. The communication was to the effect that there were 179 blocks representing 47,000 acres, and that about 80,000 acres would be available.

The clause was then passed.

The preamble and title were passed.

The House resumed, the Bill was reported, the report adopted, and the Bill carried through its remaining stages.