
BILL

To enforce the ancient Laws of this Province, compelling Seigniors to concede their Lands, subject only to Rents and Services, and to facilitate the re-union of Lands EN ROTURE to the Domain, in cases where by Law the same may be demanded.

WHEREAS by the Laws, Usages and Customs of this Province, the Proprietors of Seigniories therein are bound to grant Lands to the Inhabitants of the said Province, for settlement, subject only to certain rents and services, (*à titre de redevance*;) And whereas divers of the said Proprietors of Seigniories have, under various pretexts, and in breach of the conditions of the original grants under which the said Seigniories are held, refused to grant unto Inhabitants of the said Province, Lots of Land in the said Seigniories, for settlement, and have retained large tracts of waste and unsettled Lands in their own hands, with the intention of selling the same and receiving for the said Lots of Land large sums of money, as the prices of the same, over and above the said rents and services, whereby the settlement of this Province is greatly retarded. And whereas, previous to the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-nine, it was provided in and by a certain Decree or *Arrêt* of His Most Christian Majesty the King of France, relating to Lands in New France or Canada, granted in Seigniories and remaining waste and unconceded by the Seigniors owning the same, bearing date at Marly, the sixth day of July, one thousand seven hundred and eleven, that whensoever any Seigniors refused or made default to grant to inhabitants of the said Province, the lots of Land within the said Seigniories by them demanded for settlement, subject to the said rents and services and without any other pecuniary demand whatsoever, on the part of them the said Proprietors of Seigniories from them the said Inhabitants, it was lawful for the said Inhabitants to require Lands of them the said Seigniors, by summons, and in case of refusal, to resort to the Governor and Lieutenant-General, and the Intendant of this Province, who were authorised and re-