

was afforded the commissioners of visiting the country and learning from personal observation how the existing system was working. The final award which was presented to the Crown in July of 1861 was as follows: 1st. That the Imperial Government should stand security for a loan raised by the local government, that the lands might be purchased by the government and re-sold to the tenants. 2nd. That if the home authorities would not guarantee a grant for this purpose then the proprietors should be obliged to sell to the tenants at a fixed sum, and if they disagreed about the amount then arbitrators should be called in to settle the matter. The local legislature fully approved of this decision, but the Crown set it aside and excused its action by stating that the commissioners had altogether exceeded their instructions in suggesting that arbitrators be appointed to determine the value of the land. Here the matter ended for the time being. A few years later the Cumberland estate was bought by the government under the "Land Purchase Act," under which the Selkirk and Worel estates had also been acquired.

As a result of the rejection of this award a "Tenant League" was formed and several large demonstrations held. The governor, fearing a rebellion, sent in troops. No violence, however, was attempted and the tenants were assured of redress by promise of a speedy settlement, and a land purchase act was passed in order to further this object. By this act a tenant could obtain the fee simple of his farm at the rate of fifteen years purchase. Also £50,000 was voted by the legislature in order to aid the farmer in the purchase of his land by the payment of one-half of what the property was valued at, the tenant paying the other half. A number of farms were bought under this act. The next step taken by the local government was the framing of the "Tenants Compensation Act," which was based largely on a recent bill passed for the relief of the tenantry in Ireland. This act caused a great commotion among the landholders and was not sanctioned by the Crown.

By the terms of confederation \$800,000 was to be advanced towards buying up the land. To attain this object "The Land Purchase Act of 1875" was brought in and approved of by the local House. The proprietors did all in their power to defeat this