

prayed for such a new division of the country into electoral districts as should give to numbers and capital their due weight in the popular branch of the Legislature.

3. The French petitioners remonstrated against the large and improvident grants which had been made of extensive tracts of land to absentees.

4. They remonstrated against the claim advanced and acted upon by the Government, to appropriate, without the consent of the House of Assembly, a large part of the provincial revenue.

5. They insisted that the tenure of the judicial office ought to be during good behaviour, and not during pleasure.

6. They complained of the defalcation of Mr. Caldwell, and the loss incurred on that account by the Province.

7. As connected with Caldwell's case, they further complained that the Receiver-general and sheriffs were appointed without giving security for the faithful management of their receipts.

8. Extensive estates, which had been the property of the order of the Jesuits, had been taken possession of by the Crown, and the rents applied for the ordinary purposes of the King's revenue. The French petitioners reclaimed this property, as applicable, by the House of Assembly, to the general purpose of religious instruction or education.

9. The composition of the Legislative and Executive Councils was represented as highly objectionable, because the judges, and other dependents on the Crown, were included in them, and because the most considerable proprietors in the country were excluded from them.

10. The attempts to alter the constitution of the Canadas, and to unite them, by Act of Parliament, into one province, formed the next alleged grievance.

11. Then followed the complaint that Parliament had perpetuated the temporary duties of Lower Canada, with a view to the apportionment of the proceeds between the two Provinces.

12. The large extent of territory appropriated as reserves for a Protestant clergy was the next head of remonstrance.

13. This was succeeded by a complaint, that the management of those lands, and the emolument resulting from them, were confined entirely to one class of Protestant clergy, those, namely, of the Established Church.

14. The petitioners further represented that the law respecting juries was insufficient, partial, and oppressive.

15. They complained that they were unable to appoint an agent to represent the Legislature in England, the office of provincial agent being at that time held, under an appointment from the Secretary of State, by the chief clerk in his office.

Complaints of the
petitioners.

Finally. The English petitioners represented it as a great hardship that no convenient system for registering sales of land had been introduced, but that all conveyances were made in the forms and according to the principles of the French law.

While the Committee to which these petitions had been referred were engaged in the consideration of them, Mr. Huskisson resigned the office, and Sir George Murray received the seals of this department.

Report of Canada
Committee.

The Canada Committee proceeded to make their report. They adverted to each of the complaints already enumerated, and gave recommendations in reference to each, the substance of which will be here stated with the greatest possible brevity. The arrangement of topics pursued by the Committee does not, however, exactly correspond with that which is abstracted from the petitions.

1. They advised that the Act of Parliament respecting the tenures of land in Lower Canada should not be repealed.

2. That, with reference to the common soccage lands, some simple form of mortgage and conveyance, borrowed from the English laws, should supersede the French system.

3. That means should be taken, even by the sacrifice of the territorial rights of the Crown, to enfranchise the feudal land.

4. That local courts should be established in the townships.

5. That the French Canadians should be permitted to retain their feudal tenures, if such was their pleasure, and even to receive new grants from the Crown on the same principle.

6. That the representation of the people should be enlarged and rendered more equal, so as to admit the English to their fair share and influence in the Assembly.

7. That, to prevent the mischiefs arising from large tracts being held in a wild state by absent grantees, a tax should be imposed on uncleared land.

8. That all the revenue of the Province, except the territorial and hereditary revenues, should be placed under the control of the Assembly.

9. That proper measures should be taken to prevent future losses to the revenue by the defaults of public accountants; for which purpose securities were to be given, and a regular audit of accounts established.

10. That the Jesuits' estates should be applied to the purposes of general education.

11. That the constitution of the Legislative Council should be made more independent; that the majority of the members should consist of persons not holding offices at the pleasure of the Crown; that the judges should not be members of either Council, except that the chief justice might, on particular occasions, be summoned to the Legislative Council.

12. That Parliament should not interfere with the constitution of the Province, except in cases in which the powers of the local Legislature might be inadequate to the requisite reforms.

13. That,