

14. That your petitioner appeared personally before the said Commissioners on Monday the 24th of September, one of the days appointed for hearing the landlords after the tenants' case was closed; and your petitioner expressed his readiness to answer such questions as the Chairman of the Commission might be pleased to put to him, but nothing was said about settling disputes with his tenants, nor were proposals of any kind made to him for an "amicable arrangement" of grievances, whether real or alleged, were any such before their Excellencies. And your petitioner then and there protested against any compulsory interference on their part with his property, on the grounds hereinbefore stated; and having answered certain questions relative to the value of lands in this island, it was signified to your petitioner that he might withdraw.

15. That as Your Majesty's Royal allowance to the Act to give effect to the Report of the Commissioners has not yet been signified, it was both premature and impolitic in the Local Government to promote the sittings of the said Commissioners, as their proceedings were evidently influenced by a regard to the arbitrary jurisdiction the Act is meant to confer, rather than the more limited power implied by Your Majesty's warrant; and much excitement has consequently spread through the Island, the result of which it is impossible to conjecture.

16. That amidst the mass of evidence tendered to the Commissioners, and the great number of persons, chiefly tenants expecting to get free farms by escheat or otherwise, who appeared before their Excellencies, not a single individual was examined upon oath, as it was evidently the opinion of the Court that it had no power to administer that obligation; nor even by subpoena or process of any kind to enforce the necessary attendance of witnesses who, through intimidation or motives of self-interest, might be reluctant to appear, and that such there were admits of easy proof.

17. That proceedings in the said Commissioners' Court assumed a highly irregular character, strongly marked by excited feeling and extreme party bias. In support of this, it may be mentioned that a man in the custody of the deputy sheriff of Queen's County, in an action for the recovery of an alleged debt of rent, was brought by that officer before the said Court, without any legal authority for his appearance there, and to no other purpose than to create a prejudice in the minds of the Commissioners against landlords generally; and although learned counsel of high professional standing were retained from the Bar of New Brunswick and that of Prince Edward Island, by the Local Government on behalf of the tenantry, yet certain members of Your Majesty's Executive Council, namely, Colonel the Honourable John Hamilton Gray and the Honourable John Longworth, both members of the Assembly, addressed the Commissioners in open court against the leasehold tenure. The former especially attended throughout nearly the whole of the tenants' case, and spoke repeatedly in terms ill-calculated to promote a settlement of the question "in a spirit of conciliation and fairness to all parties," as recommended by Your Majesty's Minister.

18. That the said Colonel Gray, who thus appears opposed to the representatives of the original grantees of townships, is himself the grandson of Captain George Burns, who was indebted to the bounty of his Majesty George the Third for a grant of such land now held under the said George Burns' title. But, as your petitioner is informed, and verily believes, neither the said Honourable John Hamilton Gray nor a single member of his family, is at present seised or possessed of any township land in this Island.

19. That the part of township No. 65 owned by your petitioner is let chiefly in tracts of from 50 to 150 acres, for terms of 999 years, at rents varying from 9 *d.* to 1 *s.* 2 *d.* per acre, sterling money of Great Britain, estimating it at the present rate of exchange; and in some few cases the rents rise to 1 *s.* 6 *d.* sterling per acre (at the same rate), at the expiration of 40 years of the term; and it would be attended with consequences utterly ruinous to your petitioner to submit to sales of his property on terms obliging him to take payment in limited instalments, as proposed in the Resolutions of the Assembly. But he would willingly take a sum in gross for the fee-simple of what land he owns, amounting to 20 years' purchase of the maximum annual rent reserved on the whole, which he deems would be a reasonable consideration. And your petitioner would thankfully be so enabled to seek an investment in some other country, owing to the manifest insecurity attending that disregard to the rights of property and of social order which is becoming more and more apparent in this Island.

20. That the said part of township No. 65 was demised to your petitioner by his mother, deceased, who received a conveyance of it in exchange for a valuable property, settled on her previous to marriage.

21. That 166 acres, owned by your petitioner on township No. 50, was part of 400 acres purchased for a valuable consideration by his grandfather Thomas Wright, Esq., from John Throckmorton, Esq., an American Loyalist, who had served as an officer in the King's Rangers during the American War of Independence; and the said 400 acres was all the real property your petitioner's said grandfather was enabled, at his decease, to leave as a provision for his family, after 48 years of his life spent in various public services, which may not be particularly enumerated here.

22. That, as far as your petitioner is enabled to judge, the tenants on his said property are generally respectable and inoffensive people, and hitherto well disposed towards your petitioner, though of course liable to be influenced by designing men and unprincipled political agitators.

23. That