

Amendments  
proposed to  
address to His  
Majesty on  
U. E. Lands.

tends to promote purchases, the conditions of which are not afterwards complied with, and which it may be hereafter difficult to enforce.

"We therefore most respectfully suggest, that just advantage would result from the establishment in each District where there are Crown Lands for sale, of an office for the disposal of such lands, under such regulations as may from time to time be given by the Commissioner of Crown Lands. That a moderate price might be attached to each lot, and authority given to the several Agents to accept the first proposal, at such price, subject only to the conditions of actual settlement on some part of each lot, and the payment of the purchase money.

"We would also represent to Your Majesty, that the restrictions imposed on the grants of land to U. E. Loyalists have never answered the purposes for which they were intended, and have had no other effect than to depreciate the value of the grant, and thereby compel the claimants to dispose of them to speculators for the most trifling consideration, which has had the effect of destroying the advantages intended to be conferred on the posterity of those deserving men who abandoned their homes and sacrificed their property to preserve their allegiance to their Sovereign and their Country. Those restrictions have had an equally injurious tendency, and affected in like manner the boon intended to be conferred on the Militia of this Province who have served during the late war with the United States of America, and are entitled to receive grants of land as a reward for their services. We would therefore, Most Gracious Sovereign, respectfully offer as our opinion, that those persons privileged to receive the bounty of the Crown might be allowed to make their locations in any part of the Province where there are lands unoccupied belonging to the Crown, and that no other restrictions should be imposed than the actual residence in person or by some other individual on some part of the grant."

House divides  
on amendment

On which the yeas and nays were taken as follows:

**YEAS.** *Messieurs,*  
Berczy, Fraser, D. McDonald, D. Morris,  
Boulton, Jarvis, McMartin, Robinson,—10  
Crooks, Ketchum,

**NAYS.** *Messieurs.*  
Bidwell, Cook, Macnab, Samson,  
Buell, Hornor, McNeillidge, Shade,  
Burwell, Howard, Merritt, Shaver,  
Campbell, Lewis, Perry, Wilson, W.—19  
Chisholm, Macdonald, A. Randal,

Amendment  
lost.

The question of amendment was decided in the negative by a majority of nine.

In amendment, Mr. Archibald McDonell, seconded by Mr. Donald Fraser, moves, that after the word "Majesty," in the second paragraph, the following be expunged:—"For the last four or five months, scarcely any locations have been allowed to be made even on those conditions, and then not without extreme difficulty, inconvenience and delay, although applications have been frequently made for permission to locate during that time on unquestionable claims. Yet, when allowed, they were not permitted to have lands in situations which were in any ways favorable, the Government by their late orders only allowing those grants to be made in a few of the Townships surveyed, most of which are unfavorably situated, the good lands being already taken up, and the remainder of little or no value, and only to a certain extent even in those Townships, while they are excluded altogether from other surveyed Townships more favorably situated. We beg leave to submit, that those restrictions and obstacles, and particularly the last mentioned, made by the Lieutenant Governor of this Province, to the free grants of your Royal Father, are considered and viewed as a breach of faith and pledge on the part of the Government, and a violation of the just rights of the individuals concerned, and if persisted in, when thus submitted and fully explained, cannot but have a tendency to shake the confidence of Your Majesty's Subjects in the justice and wisdom of Your Majesty's Councils and Government, and that in the opinion of your faithful Commons and Subjects generally, these unjust restrictions, impositions, obstacles and proceedings by the Government, have tended, and in fact are the sole causes of reducing the value of those grants in the hands of the original owners very materially, inasmuch as many of those entitled being desirous of settling themselves in the neighbourhood of their fathers and friends, and not being enabled to locate their rights in such neighbourhood, or adjacent thereto, have purchased or become possessed of other lands, on which they have settled and improved, and which they are not willing to leave to avail themselves of a location at a distance from their friends and in back and refuse Townships, they consequently part with their rights, in many cases, for a trifle, and far below what they would be able to realize under similar

circumstances were," and the following inserted:—"That the zeal, exertions, and unwearied application of the present Lieutenant Governor to promote the prosperity of the Province generally since his appointment, is fully appreciated, and that its rapid increase in population, capital and comforts, under his administration, deserves the continued confidence of His Majesty, and the thanks of the people. But in making this due acknowledgement to the general prosperity, welfare and happiness, we cannot overlook the just claims of the deserving, faithful and devoted children of the first loyalists, who inherit the principles of their Fathers, like them ready to uphold Your Majesty's Crown and Empire at the sacrifice of their ease, lives and fortunes; and we confidently demand on their behalf, and for them, the fulfilment of the pledge of Your late Royal Father, so long understood to be free grants, so long continued generously and faithfully without conditions, but also, unfortunately for the objects of them, now so long denied. That the several regulations lately issued to prevent these rights being sacrificed to the cupidity of speculators, have only aggravated the injuries intended to be removed; and although the Lieutenant Governor, viewing those sacrifices no doubt as objects of regret and alarm, made lately an additional order that the value which the grants should bring at public sale is to be paid to those who are unable to settle on the same in compliance with the former regulations, however well meant, is unsatisfactory, and that the fair value and advantage of these rights can never be obtained by the persons really and deservedly entitled until;" and also, that the words "at once" be expunged, and "are" be inserted; and also that the following be inserted before the last paragraph of the address: "In directing our attention to these important circumstances, in order to shew the just claims of these classes of persons to Your Majesty's Royal bounty, the whole system of land granting came properly and necessarily under consideration, and we feel it our duty to animadvert seriously on that part of the system, which directs that settlers and purchasers are to be accommodated only at periodical, distant and uncertain sales, and to express our anxious hopes, that Your Majesty will be pleased to order that all the Agents under the Commissioner of Crown Lands be obliged to have ready always lists of all lots of lands for sale in their division, with the several prices annexed, according to situation and soil, to enable the settlers and applicants to purchase at once without the expense, inconvenience, delay and fatigue, to which they are now subject, in going to the seat of Government, and from hence backwards and forwards hundreds of miles, to and from the places of sale."

On which the yeas and nays were taken as follows:

House divides  
on amendment

**YEAS.**—*Messieurs.*  
Boulton, Crooks, Fraser, D. Macdonald, A.  
Burwell, 5.

**NAYS.** *Messieurs.*  
Berczy, Clark, McNeillidge, Robinson,  
Bidwell, Cook, Merritt, Samson,  
Buell, Hornor, Morris, Shade,  
Campbell, Howard, Perry, Shaver,  
Chisholm, Macnab, Randal, Wilson, W.—20

The question of amendment was decided in the negative by a majority of fifteen. Amendment lost.

In amendment, Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Bidwell, moves that the following be inserted previous to the word "all," in the last paragraph:—"We would also beg leave to represent to Your Majesty, that of late and since the year 1818, frequent and sometimes sudden changes have taken place in the system of granting and selling the lands of the Crown, among which, together with other circumstances connected with the system itself, viz: the selling all lands of the Crown at public auction, and that at stated periods only, and in some townships at an upset price altogether too high, the want of proper agencies or boards in the several Districts so situated as to be enabled to afford full and ample information respecting lands in the District, to all such persons as might be desirous of obtaining the same; which being on the spot would possess far more facilities for obtaining and communicating correct information, than it is possible the Land Granting Establishment located at York, can by any means possess, by which means a vast deal of uncertainty, inconvenience, and delay has been experienced, which has seriously retarded the settlement, progress, welfare, and prosperity of the country, whereas if proper agencies or boards were established in the several Districts for the purposes aforesaid, and with power to locate all claims presented, and also to dispose of the lands of the Crown at a fair valuation, to be previously fixed upon; and in order to have a system so framed, as best to promote the welfare and prosperity of the Province, we humbly submit that it is highly expedient to have it regulated and established by Provincial Statutes, by this arrangement the wisdom of the Executive would be combined with that of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly assembled from all parts of the Province."