

The thirty-second Section gives to Persons holding Lands at *Cens et Rentes* of the King, the same right of selling their Land to His Majesty, and of obtaining from him a release of all feudal rights, and to receive from him fresh Grants in Free and Common Soccage, upon payment of such sums of money as His Majesty may deem to be reasonable by reason of the release and fresh Grant.

The same Section enacts, that the monies paid to His Majesty, upon any commutations made by virtue of the Act, shall be applied towards the Administration of Justice and the support of the Civil Government of the Province.

To have permitted the introduction into this Province of a Tenure unknown to its Inhabitants, and to have permitted in a Country governed by the old French Civil Laws, the establishment of a Tenure absolutely English, and foreign to the Jurisprudence and manners of the Country, was a serious inconvenience. Doubtless, in approving the granting of Lands in Free and Common Soccage in this Province, the British Parliament in one thousand seven hundred and seventy-four, observed no incompatibility between that Tenure and the Civil Laws of this Province; for it were to wrong that august body to impute to them an intention, however remote, of destroying or changing, by introducing that Tenure into *Canada*, the Laws of this Country, or the other civil rights of its inhabitants, in contempt of the Capitulation of the Country and of the Treaty of one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three; that is to say, of the most sacred engagements and most solemn promises.

What manifestly proves how honourable and above all suspicion in this respect the intention of Parliament was, is the Eighth Section of the same Act of one thousand seven hundred and seventy-four, wherein it is enacted, that all His Majesty's Canadian Subjects in the said Province of *Quebec*, shall hold and enjoy