

An Act for the protection of settlers, in certain cases, in Lower Canada.

**W**HEREAS extensive tracts of wild land in many parts of Lower Preamble.  
Canada, and more especially in the Townships thereof, have heretofore been granted to, or have come into the hands of non-resident proprietors, many of whom have not, or for long periods of time have  
5 not had any known resident agents for the management thereof, and many of whom are not, or for long periods of time have not been so much as generally known to be proprietors of such lands; And whereas the surveys of many of such tracts have been most imperfect and unsatisfactory, and the lines of boundary between the lands of  
10 different proprietors and also between such lands and those of the Crown are in very many cases doubtful or unknown, or have even never been drawn; And whereas great numbers of settlers (many of whom did not, or even now do not know on whose lands they are) have long held and still hold possession of many portions of such  
15 tracts of lands, and have cleared and otherwise greatly improved the same, and have borne and still bear all taxes and other public burthens thereon, as if they had been and were the proprietors thereof; And whereas the litigation which has taken place between such proprietors and settlers has already been productive of grave social evils, and the  
20 continuance of such litigation (unless the delays and costs thereof, and the hardships thence to result, be as much as possible lessened by legislation) must lead to still worse results; And whereas it is at once just and expedient, with the view of averting these evils, to provide for the protection of settlers upon wild land in Lower Canada, at least for  
25 a limited time, by such enactments as hereinafter are set forth, for the lessening of such delays, costs, and hardships; Therefore Her Majesty, &c., enacts:

1. Any settler or individual who, by himself or by his *auteurs*, shall  
30 have openly and publicly enjoyed or shall hereafter so enjoy the undisturbed possession, for the five years next before the institution of any suit for his ejection therefrom, of any lot or part of a lot of land in Lower Canada, which, when he or his *auteurs* acquired possession thereof, was wild and unimproved, and shall have increased the value thereof by improvements made with the view of permanent settlement,  
35 thereon as owner thereof, shall be held entitled to claim in such suit, in the manner and under the limitations hereinafter set forth, the increased value which such improvements may have given thereto, before he shall be dispossessed thereof.

Settlers on wild lands with five years possession entitled to the value of their improvements in certain cases.