

6-7 EDWARD VII., A.1907

"doubt respecting the same, which may any ways tend to excite
 "and encourage vexations lawsuits ; and until a matter of so
 "serious and complicated a nature, fraught with many and great
 "difficulties, can be seriously considered, and such measures
 "therein taken as may appear the most likely to promote the well-
 "fare and prosperity of the province in general, his excellency,
 "by and with the advice and consent of his Majesty's council,
 "doth hereby ordain and declare that, until the 10th day of
 "August next, the tenures of lands, in respect to such grants as
 "are prior to the cession thereof by the definitive treaty of peace
 "signed at Paris the 10th day of February one thousand seven
 "hundred and sixty-three, and the rights of inheritance, as
 "practised before that period, in such lands or effects, of any
 "nature whatsoever, according to the custom of this country,
 "shall remain to all intents and purposes the same, unless they
 "shall be altered by some declared and positive law; for which
 "purpose the present ordinance shall serve as a guide and direction
 "in all such matters to every court of record in this province.
 "Provided that nothing in this ordinance contained shall extend,
 "or be construed to extend, to the prejudice of the rights of the
 "Crown, or to debar his Majesty, his heirs or successors, from
 "obtaining by due course of law in any of his courts of record
 "in this province, according to the laws of Great Britain, any
 "lands or tenements, which at any time hereafter may be found
 "to be vested in his Majesty, his heirs or successors, and in the
 "possession of any grantee or grantees, his, her, or their assigns,
 "or such as claim under them by virtue of any such grants as
 "aforesaid, or under pretence thereof, or which hereafter may be
 "found to have become forfeited to his Majesty by breach of
 "of all or any of the conditions in such grants respectively
 "mentioned and contained."

Conclusion
 necessarily
 following
 from this
 ordinance in
 favour of the
 introduction
 of the laws of
 England.

By this latter ordinance we conceive that all the lands in this province, whose owners have died since the 10th day of August 1765, are meant to be subjected to the English law of inheritance, and to the English custom of dower, and to the English rules of forfeiture to your Majesty for high treason, or escheat to your Majesty, or to such other lord of whom they are holden, for felony or defect of heirs, and to all the other rules of the English law relating to land-property, even though the said lands had been originally granted before the signing of the definitive treaty of peace; and that all lands granted since the said peace were already, at the time of making the said ordinance, subject to the said English rules and customs, and were so to continue.