

front, and was acquired so far as it could be from the Ursuline Nuns, by Mr. John Fraser in 1832—he shortly afterwards applied for a commutation of tenure, which was granted, but inasmuch as this would confer no title to the ground between high and low-water mark, it was agreed that this should be sold to him absolutely. For the purpose of ascertaining the value of the property, the title to which was to be commuted, as well as of that which was to be sold to him, Messrs. William Philips and Robert Wood, were appointed as experts, one on behalf of the Crown, and one on behalf of the purchasers. These gentlemen valued the commutable property above high-water mark at £2,224 7s. 6d. upon which a commutation fine of 10 per cent. was to be paid, and the property below high-water mark at £285 for the ground and £479 3s. 4d. for the improvements. The commutation fine was paid amounting to £222.

The claimants also paid the fees to Government Officers, on the patent for the property below high-water mark, amounting to £251. 7s. 6d.

Before the issue of a patent, however, the matter was again brought under the consideration of the Executive Council, and an order was made by the Governor in Council, from which the following is an extract :—

“ But inasmuch as the Committee are of opinion, that the beach has evidently been undervalued by the experts according to their report of the 22nd October, 1835, they recommend that the premises be valued at 2d. per superficial foot, being the rate at which similar properties have hitherto been estimated in that neighbourhood, and that Mr. Fraser do pay an annual rent, to be calculated on the amount of such valuation, at the rate of 6 per cent. The property having been assigned in portions to Messrs. Bonner and Petry—these gentlemen severally petitioned to have patents issued to them, for their respective portions of the