

Bill, with the amendments under the consideration of the Legislative Council, will fail to give public satisfaction. The principle of compulsory early commutation, having been forced on the Government, they should now deal with the question in the most comprehensive manner. The obvious way of effecting the object, is to apply the indemnity in the first place, to the extinction of the most objectionable and burthensome rights by which means the most offensive features of the tenure could be at once abolished, and a great boon would be extended to every *Censitaire* in Lower Canada. No other plan can be devised which would confer equal benefits on all classes of *censitaires*. The objection of course would be that parties now paying excessive rents would get no special relief. To this it may fairly be replied, that the indemnity has been given, not so much because the parties subjected to these rents have any particular claim to compensation, as to satisfy widely spread popular discontent. It cannot be denied that even if the Seigniors were legally bound to concede at 2d. per arpent, the individual who has purchased a property subject to a rent of 1s per arpent, and who has paid for it a proportionately less price, has no real grievance to complain of, and this class must form an immense majority of the whole body of *Censitaires*.

But even admitting the pretensions of this class of *censitaires* to the fullest extent, it cannot be doubted that they would consider the removal of their other burthens as a great boon, and one which would largely increase the value of their properties, and moreover they would be compelled to acknowledge that they could not reasonably expect to be exempted from the sacrifices which all classes of the population are called upon to make, to procure a satisfactory settlement of the question. The advantage of the plan proposed is, that it is simple and inexpensive, and that no individual would have to pay more annual rent than he does at present, while the entire community would be relieved from all feudal burthens. It moreover can be speedily carried into operation. As the change of tenure would cause an increase to the value of property much greater than the amount which it would cost to redeem the Seigniorial rights, every *censitaire* in Lower Canada would receive an indirect benefit, even greater than the direct one conferred by the Legislature. As there can be little doubt that the present Bill, with the proposed amendments, will wholly fail in its object, it may be well to consider whether