

Crown lands had been given up in 1826 and the policy of sale adopted. In Upper Canada a tract of 2,000,000 acres was sold to the Canada Company for an annual payment of £20,000 for seventeen years. In Lower Canada the British American Land Company received a smaller tract, while a company for similar purposes was organized in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Over these casual and territorial revenues the Houses of Assembly now wished to obtain control. The view which the Imperial Government took of the matter may be seen from the words of the message in 1831, in which the crown duties were surrendered. "These revenues stand upon a different footing from taxes properly so called. They are enjoyed by the Crown by virtue of the royal prerogative, and are neither more nor less than the proceeds of landed property which legally and constitutionally belongs to the sovereign upon the throne;" and still more plainly by the words of Charles Buller in his report on the Crown lands of Canada in 1838:—"The waste lands of the colonies are the property not merely of the colony but of the empire, and ought to be administered for imperial not merely for colonial purposes." But the colonists took a different view of the matter. They looked upon themselves as a political society having corporate rights of property in the public domain which was not yet granted to individual owners. In 1835, the assembly of Lower Canada declared by address to His Majesty "that your petitioners have reason to believe that your