

BILL.

An Act to facilitate the redemption of Seigniorial rights in Lower Canada, and to convert the tenure of lands chargeable therewith unto that of *franc aleu roturier*, to define the rights of Seigniors and Censitaires, and to correct abuses.

WHEREAS it is expedient to facilitate the commutation of lands held *en roture*, in the fiefs and seigniories of Lower Canada, to define the rights of Seigniors and of Censitaires, and to put an end at as early a date as possible, to the abuses existing under the Seigniorial Tenure; Be it therefore enacted, &c.,

Preamble.

That the Acts passed in the eighth year of Her Majesty's Reign, chapter 42, in the twelfth year of Her Majesty's Reign, chapter 49, and all other laws, customs, and usages (except the law for commutation in the Seigniorie of St. Sulpice, which shall remain in full force and vigor, anything in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding,) shall be and are hereby repealed.

8 V. c. 42.
12 V. c. 49.
and other laws inconsistent with this Act repealed.

II. And be it enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, the domain of the Seignior and his seigniorial and feudal rights, shall be released from all *droits de quint* payable to the Crown, but the Seignior shall render fealty and homage, and furnish a statement and rent roll, (*aveu et denombrement*) to the Crown, until the period of the extinction of his Seigniorial Tenure.

Droits de quint in favor of the Crown released.

III. That Her Majesty's Government shall place to the credit of the Seigniors and proprietors of such Seigniories, fiefs and *arrière-fiefs*, as are not the property of the Government, in the order and according to the value of each seigniorie, fief and *arrière-fief*, as hereinafter explained in describing the mode of estimating and establishing the said value, the amount of the value of all the seigniories, fiefs and *arrière-fiefs* at present in the possession of the Government of this Province, in order to the formation of a sinking fund in the hands of the Receiver General of this Province, for the security of third parties and of the creditors of the Seigniors; the Government retaining the share allotted to it in the said valuation for their seigniories, fiefs and *arrière-fiefs*, after deducting the costs of arbitration and other charges; and the said creditors shall declare and establish the amount of

Sinking Fund formed for the security of the rights of creditors of Seigniors.