

necessity of the old unsettled days, when feudalism arose, that king and vassal should declare openly their solemn obligations before the assembled court. In those warlike days records could not be permanently kept, but, by the open *Foi et Hommage* at each mutation, witnesses could always be found who could testify, if the records should be destroyed. Now the mutation fees were claimed by the Crown in 1806, and they were paid and the documents are of public record, and the seigneurs were in possession and have so remained.

An *Acte de Foi et Hommage* is title sufficient of itself against the Crown. Whoever questions it, the Crown cannot. This principle is self-evident upon the most cursory view. It is very clearly expressed in the following passage from Lefevre de la Planche *Traité du Domaine*, Vol. 1 page 185 :

“ Lors donc que le seigneur a reçu son vassal en foi, il ne lui reste qu’une action pour le recouvrement des droits qui lui sont dus.” The seigniors hold an acknowledgement from the King “ des droits qui lui sont dus.”

When then the proprietors of *Terra Firma of Mingan* are asked to show their titles, they need only refer the inquirer to the *Registre de Foi et Hommage*, tome 4, p. 22, where it will be found that the Governor-General, Lord Gosford, as representing Her present Majesty, received the said seigneurs into *Foi et Hommage* for the “ fief et Seigneurie de la Terre ferme de Mingan, situé dans le Golfe de St. Laurent sur le coté nord, commençant au Cap Cormoran en allant au Nord-Est jusqu’à la Baie appelée la Grande Anse vers les Esquimaux, où les Espagnols font ordinairement la pêche sur deux lieues de profondeur,” elsewhere described in the same document as having been granted to the Sieur Bissot in 1661.

There are very few ancient titles to property clearer than that.