

fraud upon the Government, by eluding the payment agreed on, and some of the most valuable lands in the Country, by pursuing this system, which permits them to occupy the same for seven years free of expense, either of quit rent or purchase, independently of the injury to be done to them, will be locked up from settlement, and thus deprive Emigrants who may arrive here, as well as the descendants of those loyal men, whose firm attachment to their King, led them to encounter the hardships incident to the first opening of the wilderness, from obtaining locations in situations where they would be willing or able to form permanent settlements.

Instead of a loyal, industrious, and sturdy Yeomanry, when lands are held in free and common soccage, and who would feel and maintain that spirit of determined loyalty to the King, and firm attachment to the British Constitution, which led to the first settlement of this Province, and which if cherished and supported, would render New-Brunswick a highly valuable appendage of the British Crown, the new system will be the means of raising up a class of men, who, are of idle habits in general, and stand low in the public estimation, and who, holding their lands by a temporary and precarious tenure, would take advantage of the first opportunity of placing themselves under a foreign jurisdiction, upon a promise of being secured in their possessions without payment; a promise which will be readily made by our neighbours upon any fit occasion that may offer.

The means heretofore in the power of the Governor and Council, and used by them for ascertaining the characters and condition of the persons to whom allotments of land were made, are by the present system entirely done away; as all persons, of whatever description, are discriminately permitted to purchase, and tracts of the most valuable land are thrown, it may be said, gratuitously into the hands of persons who will yield to the temptations above stated.

That in the opinion of the Council and Assembly, the great and increased expense of taking out a Grant of Land under the new system, and the restraint which it imposes on the settler, by compelling him to purchase a Lot not the object of his choice, which is in general influenced by some local cause, have retarded the settlement of the Country. In confirmation of this fact they beg leave humbly to state, that in the years 1825 and 1826, two hundred and sixty-two Grants of Land, comprising five hundred and six Grantees, were passed, while under the new system, no Grants have as yet passed, and only nine have been applied for.

That in this Province there are many millions of acres of wilderness lands, upon the settlement of which the future prosperity of the Country must depend: That in the opinion of the Council and Assembly, no circumstance could contribute more to the accomplishment of this important object, than facility in obtaining a Grant of Land, and at low and moderate expense. The Council and Assembly, grateful for the many blessings they enjoy under your Majesty's paternal Government, which is distinguished for its solicitude to promote the prosperity and happiness of any part of your vast Empire, however remote its situation; most humbly pray that your Majesty will take into your most Gracious consideration, the present system of disposing of the Crown Lands, by sale, and to grant such relief in the premises as to your Majesty, in your great wisdom, shall seem meet.

W. BOTSFORD,  
E. B. CHANDLER,  
JOSEPH CUNARD,  
W. CRANE,  
J. R. PARTELOW.

Mr. Chandler, from the Committee to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, with an Address, praying His Excellency would be pleased to bring under the notice of His Majesty's Government, the wishes of the House, as expressed in a Resolution of this day, respecting the adopting a system for the granting of Crown Lands, reported, that His Excellency was pleased to say, he would most certainly comply with the wishes of the House.

Mr. Allen, from the Committee appointed to examine into the state of the New-Government House, and to report the result of such examination to the House, having attended to that duty, reported that owing to the severity of the season, they found it impossible