

in order to bring the Terms more in accordance with the Conditions recommended by Mr. Buller in his Report, and these I shall feel it my Duty to introduce. They will not obviate some of the Objections entertained by the Memorialists who have addressed Her Majesty against the Ordinance, but others will be removed by them. I shall explain those Modifications more fully in transmitting to your Lordship the Ordinance itself.

Lord John Russell,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. POULETT THOMSON.

To the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

THE undersigned Proprietors of Real Estate, Merchants, and others, Inhabitants of the City and Island of Montreal in the Province of Lower Canada, most humbly approach Your Majesty on the Subject of an Ordinance lately submitted by his Excellency the Right Honourable Charles Poulett Thomson, for the Reconsideration of the Special Council appointed for the Affairs of this Province, intituled "An Ordinance to incorporate the Ecclesiastics of the
" Seminary of Saint Sulpice of Montreal; to confirm their Title to the Fief
" and Seigniory of the Island of Montreal, the Fief and Seigniory of the Lake
" of the Two Mountains, and the Fief and Seigniory of Saint Sulpice in this
" Province; to provide for the gradual Extinction of Seigniorial Rights, and
" Dues within the Seigniorial Limits of the said Fiefs and Seigniories, and for
" other Purposes;" the Provisions of which involve the Right of private Property, the Welfare of this Province, and the general Interests of the Canadas.

Your Petitioners represent that the Evils and Inconveniences of the Feudal Tenure have been so generally acknowledged, that it will not be necessary to occupy the Attention of Your Majesty with a Detail of the various Oppressions and Exactions incident to its Existence in Lower Canada, in all Parts of which it has retarded the Extension of its Commerce and the Development of its natural Resources. The heavy Fines on Alienations, which impede the Transmission of Land, and impose a burthensome Tax upon every Improvement; the Feudal Privilege on every Purchase of Real Estate, which renders its Possession insecure, and prevents Investment of Capital therein; and the Seigniorial Monopoly in the Manufacture of the Products of the Soil, which checks Improvement in Cultivation, and cramps Enterprise in Commerce, are not only injurious to the Use of Land for Agriculture, but are infinitely more destructive to its Application for building Purposes.

Your Petitioners submit that, however objectionable the continued Existence of the Feudal Tenure may be throughout the Province, its pernicious Influence is felt with augmented Force in the Island of Montreal, which includes the City of Montreal, together with the Ground on which it must in Progress of Time extend itself; and is the admitted Cause of the slow Progress, both in Extent and Prosperity, of a City which, from its local Position; and the increasing Resources of the Canadas, possesses every Capability of being one of the greatest Marts of Trade and most extensive Seats of Population in Your Majesty's North American Dominions.

Although repeated and respectful Remonstrances have been made at various Periods against the Continuance of the Feudal Tenure, which has been unwisely permitted to exist in full Force in this Province alone of all the wide Dominions of the British Empire, your Petitioners rejoice that it has been reserved to Your Majesty to be enabled to sanction the Abolition of its pernicious Influence in this Island, and to provide for its entire Extinction.

Your Petitioners have no Desire to impede the legislative Powers of the Special Council appointed for the making of Laws and Ordinances for the Government of the Province, but they entertain a firm Conviction that, from the peculiar Constitution of the Council, and the Want of an effective System of Representation therein, public Interests and private Rights cannot at all Times receive the adequate Consideration that their Importance and Urgency demand; and that from these inherent legislative Defects the proposed Ordinance, altogether objectionable in Principle and in Detail, formerly received the