

The new Government measure now under consideration has been moulded to meet the views of the parties to whom reference has been made. The reduction of the rent to a penny per arpent was to satisfy the Quebec *Censitaires*, while the principle of forced commutation, introduced while the bill was in Committee, was a concession to Montreal public opinion. This last concession is one which alters the whole character of the measure and renders it necessary to retrace the entire ground which has been travelled over. It was a point yielded by the Government at almost the last moment, and it is now admitted that the plan proposed for effecting the commutation and adopted without sufficient consideration would have been grossly unjust to the Seigneur. In dealing with private rights which are not even disputed, there must be a strict regard to the principle of full compensation for all that is taken away, and it is quite evident that this cannot be given with satisfaction to the *Censitaire* under the provisions of the present bill. The amendments proposed to be submitted to the Legislative Council on behalf of the Seigniors, although in accordance with equity and calculated very much to improve the bill sent from the Assembly, will most assuredly render it obnoxious to the mass of the *Censitaires*. In fact, the great objection to all the schemes which have hitherto found favour in the Legislature, is that they operate unequally. They confer a benefit on the people in certain Seigniories at the expense of the public at large, including of course those *Censitaires* who will derive no advantage whatever from the bill. The *Censitaires* are to be relieved from one class of burthens (the rents), but at the same time are to have others imposed on them, while the munificent indemnity fund is to be wasted by being subjected to the charges consequent on the appointment of a batch of Commissioners, the termination of whose labours will assuredly be at a very distant day.

Those who have steadily supported the views of the Government on this question up to the present time, are compelled to pause, now that the whole aspect of affairs has changed. It is to be hoped that the Government will likewise pause. The decisions of the Legislative Assembly would justify them in proposing a settlement of this most difficult question, such as a few months ago they could hardly have ventured on. It is now admitted that the Seigniorial Tenure must be extinguished at no distant period, but it is generally believed that the mode of effecting this object provided by the

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