

succeeded in getting the *lods et ventes* abolished, the Seignors being compensated on equitable terms out of provincial funds. Mr. Drummond and his friends wished to apply the government aid to the reduction of the heavy rents exacted by some seignors, but these, if unlawful, could be reduced by the Court: the *lods et ventes*, a fine of one twelfth of the value *not of the land alone but of all buildings and improvements on it*, were perfectly lawful, but a hindrance to all improvement and to all free dealing with the land, while they were a constant source of attempted fraud on the Seignor and of vexation to tenant: and no fair terms of compensation by the tenants for their abolition could be contrived, because while they bore so heavily on those who wished to improve or were willing or compelled to sell their lands, they were not felt by others who had their lands from their fathers and meant to leave them to their children. Mr. Drummond for some time opposed the amendment but eventually acceded to it. The Act went into force and was perfectly successful; so completely was every difficulty removed under its operation, that in the Act passed in 1856 for codifying the Laws of Lower Canada, the Commissioners were forbidden to say any thing of the Seigniorial Tenure.

"THE GREAT TEN-THOUSAND POUNDER HINCKS."—Page 105.

It is, I hope, unnecessary to say, that this has no reference whatever to Mr. Hincks' income or fortune, but simply to the tremendous weight of metal he carried and the great initial velocity he could give it. Sir John Macdonald brought in the Clergy Reserves Bill and carried it, with the very efficient aid of Mr. Hincks, then an independent member, and not in the coalition administration. "Let both divide the Crown." for both deserve it.—The whole Civil Service of Canada owes a deep debt of gratitude to Sir Francis Hincks for the Superannuation Act, an invaluable boon to every member of the service, and not the less so to the government when wisely used,—as of course it will always be. I never assented with greater pleasure in preparing any Bill than this.

H. M. EPHEMERAL GOVERNMENT.—Page 108.

This was a Conservative *Coup d'Etat*. In his late Pamphlet "A Constitutional Governor" Mr. Todd records it thus:—

"In 1858, upon the defeat of Mr. John A. Macdonald's ministry, by an adverse vote in the Legislative Assembly upon the question of the Seat of