

tim. A moral dependence would still have followed and continued that debasing system, from which every one desires to be released. Such is what was to be feared for the censitaire.

On the other hand, the Seigniors may resist this system of commutation by arguments the justice of which it is difficult to dispute. Invested with rights which produce a fixed revenue, the Seignior has reason to count upon a capital of an almost fixed value in the market. He can now realize this capital by disposing of his rights as Seignior. By the project of a voluntary commutation on the part of the censitaires and obligatory on that of the Seignior, such as that embraced in the Bill of Mr. Drummond, the Seignior is obliged to receive his capital in sums so small, that he can scarcely make use of them and derive any considerable benefit from them.

In placing the settlement of the question entirely into the hands of the government this double inconvenience is avoided. The censitaire has nothing to do with the Seignior, and is neither exposed to his favours, nor his spite, neither to his moral dependency nor to pecuniary obligations. He is reinstated in his position as a man, and finds himself in a condition of entire equality with his fellow-men, in every point of view.

The Seignior cannot on his part offer any just objection. The government which will be enabled annually to redeem a considerable part of its debentures, will pay integrally, and in one single payment, the value of a whole Seignior, and will thus put the Seignior in a condition to use his capital. And it is only by means of turning a large number of small sums into a common fund that this result can be effected. This plan ought in this point of view to reconcile all opinions and all interests. Those who desire a law of voluntary commutation for the censitaire, will obtain it if this project is adopted. For during 25 years every one can voluntarily and when he pleases, release his property on paying the capital. The Seignior, on his part, cannot complain because he is paid for his property at once.

Every one will understand, that the censitaire will pay interest upon the capital which will represent his *rente* not exceeding four *sous*, and the *lods et ven'es* apportioned to his property.

It has been asked who should pay the costs of collection of this interest? The Convention has not entered into this detail; the question is easily resolved.