

INDEMNITY TO SEIGNIORS.

Recital.

LV. And whereas some of the powers formerly vested in the Governor and Intendant of New France, under the laws promulgated by the Kings of France, for the purpose of restraining all undue pretensions on the part of Seigniors, have 5 not been exercised since the cession of the country; and whereas differences of opinion have existed in Lower Canada, and conflicting decisions have been pronounced by the tribunals established since that time in reference to the character and extent of various Seigniorial rights; and whereas while 10 it is the duty of the Legislature to restore to persons continuing to hold lands *en roture*, (in so far as present circumstances will permit) the rights and immunities secured to them by law, as interpreted and administered at the last mentioned period, it is at the same time just that Seigniors who have legally or equitably acquired and enjoyed lucrative privileges, of which they 15 will for the future be deprived by this Act, notwithstanding the enjoyment of such privileges may have been sanctioned by the said tribunals since they ceased to exercise the aforesaid powers, should be indemnified for the losses they will suffer 20 from the manner in which the rights to be hereafter exercised by Seigniors are defined by this Act; Be it therefore enacted, That it shall be lawful for any Seignior to lay before the Commissioners appointed for the Judicial District in which the Seignior of such Seignior or the greater part thereof is situate, 25 or such three of them as may specially be designated by the Governor for that purpose, a statement in detail of the amount of loss sustained or thereafter to be sustained by him, by reason of his having been curtailed, limited or restrained by this Act, in the exercise of any lucrative privilege, or in the 30 receipt of any rents or profits which as such Seignior he would have been entitled to exercise or receive before the passing of this Act.

Claim for indemnity how to be made to commissioners for the district.

Form of such claim and where to be filed.

LVI. Every such statement shall be filed in the Office of one of the Commissioners for the Judicial District in which the 35 Seignior in relation to which the Seignior claims to have sustained loss or the greater part of such Seignior is situate, and shall be addressed to the Commissioners of the said District, in the form of a Petition, in duplicate, intitled, "Petition for Indemnity," and praying the said Commissioners to deter- 40 mine the amount of indemnity to which the Petitioner is entitled under this Act.

Duty of commissioner on receiving claim.

LVII. And it shall be the duty of such Commissioner to receive such statement or petition, and to transmit without delay, one duplicate thereof to the Secretary of the Province 45 for the time being.

Commissioners to

LVIII. It shall be the duty of the said Commissioners or such three of them as shall have been specially designated as afore-