

An Act to change the tenure of the Indian lands in the Township of Dundee, in the County of Huntingdon.

WHEREAS the Township of Dundee in Lower Canada, containing an area of eleven thousand one hundred and eighty-one acres of land, was set apart for the use and benefit of the Indians of the Tribe Iroquois of St. Regis at an early period of the Government of Canada, as an Indian Reservation; And whereas the said Indians have, through their representatives appointed by Her Majesty's Government, leased all their rights to such lands for fixed ground rents, and have given up possession of the same, after having so leased and conveyed them, and the parties to whom such lands were so conveyed have at great expense cleared the same, erected buildings thereon and otherwise improved them, thereby greatly enhancing their value; And whereas doubts have arisen respecting the legality of the said leases or conveyances, and such doubts tend to obstruct the further improvement of such lands, and it is desirable, and for the interest of the said Indians as well as of the individuals holding such lands, and for the community generally, that all such doubts be removed and the said Indians duly compensated, and that the purchasers and lessees shall have the right of redemption of such lands: Therefore Her Majesty, &c., enacts as follows:

I. All leases, *baux emphytéotiques* or *baux à longues années* granted by the St. Regis Indians or their representatives, of the said lands of the Township of Dundee, passed before the first day of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, and which at the time the same were executed or prior to the date above mentioned, were approved by a recognized Agent of the Indian Department, shall be considered to have been legally made; Provided always, that an annual ground rent of not less than five dollars for each lot of one hundred acres French measure, shall have been stipulated in favor of the said Indians.

Certain leases &c., confirmed.

Proviso.

II. All persons who are now in possession of any of the Indian lands in the said Township, and who by themselves or their *auteurs*, have paid to the Indians or the Indian Department an annual rent of at least five dollars for every hundred acres, French measure, for a period of at least five years, shall have the right to redeem such rents in the same manner as those holding leases are permitted to do under this Act.

Persons holding under annual rents may redeem them.

III. Any purchaser or lessee, or the heirs, representatives, assignee or assignees of any purchaser or lessee of any lot or part of a lot of the Indian lands in the Township of Dundee, now in the possession of the same, may redeem the rent annually accruing upon such land or lot or part of lot of land under the leases mentioned in the preceding sections

Mode of redeeming annual rents.