
lease, would in your Committee's opinion, greatly increase this evil, and would have a tendency to substitute an inferior order of tenantry, for an independent body of yeomen.

Great apprehension is expressed by the Petitioners, lest the interests of those occupants of Clergy Reserves, who hold by lease or otherwise, should suffer by the proposed transfer of their lands. The Government very properly gives such occupants every opportunity of earning the purchase money from the cultivation of the land itself, and thus enable many an industrious man to become a freeholder and owner of property, which he could not in any other way hope to acquire. This is not likely to be the case when the lands are vested in private parties, whose object is to sell at the highest prices and receive the highest rents; your Committee, therefore, earnestly recommend that the interests of all parties now occupying these lands, should be fully protected and provided for, in any arrangement that may be made.

While your Committee are of opinion that any transfer of the control of the Clergy Reserves from the Government is inadvisable, they, at the same time, must express their regret, that the Crown Lands Department have hitherto conducted the management so expensively, and with so little advantage to the fund.

Should the present system be persisted in, the whole endowment will be wasted and swallowed up, by the expense of management, and the benefits intended to be conferred on this Province, will be lost.

On enquiry, your Committee are convinced that the whole management of the lands could be profitably undertaken by competent persons who would agree to defray every attendant expense, for the moderate remuneration of seven and a half per cent on the proceeds of the actual sales. And they sincerely hope that the Government will lose no time in making so desirable an arrangement.

All which is nevertheless respectfully submitted.

G. CHALMERS,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
28th March, 1845.

1845
53