

defeat the intentions of the House, so far as they were desirous of conferring advantages upon the militiamen. It has been stated by all the witnesses who have been examined upon this subject, that the majority of the militiamen have already disposed of their claims, and that this has been done in most instances for very inadequate considerations. They were induced to do this partly by the difficulty and trouble of urging their claims in person, and the expense of employing an agent, and partly by the nature of the conditions they were required to fulfil. To such an extent is this sale of militia claims stated to have been carried, that it would seem almost as though the militiamen themselves were not more interested in any facilities for the acquisition of these grants, or relaxation of the conditions attached to them, than any other class of the community; and the benefit which, by a compliance with the wishes of the Assembly, Government designed to secure for a numerous and deserving class, would be reaped chiefly, if not entirely, by speculators, by whom these claims have been bought, and who, even supposing their bargain with the militiamen to have been fair, had assuredly no claim to any particular consideration from the Government. They had purchased the claims subject to the conditions of settlement, and paid a proportionably low price for them, and the abandonment of these conditions was a boon to them entirely uncalled for by the real circumstances of the case.

It is, in fact, obvious that, upon any system of land granting to such a body as the militia, a similar result to that which has been described as having actually taken place, must, to a certain extent, be expected. The majority of the militia were French Canadians, who have not hitherto been and are not now an emigrating people. Those of them, too, who might have been disposed to settle upon their lands, would find that the desert round them, consisting of lands which had been granted to non-resident militiamen, rendered their success as settlers impossible. They would have been isolated, or thinly scattered over a large tract of wilderness, away from society, and removed from all manner of religious instruction, to which they attach the highest importance; deprived of all succour, and without the superintendence to which they had been accustomed. Under such circumstances nothing could be expected but that they would sell their land, and generally for an inadequate consideration, since they would estimate its value by what, under the circumstances, it seemed to be worth to them. From the evidence of Mr. Morin, this appears to be so much the case, that any indication of a favourable