

1867

BILL.

An Act to facilitate the redemption of Seigniorial rights in Lower Canada, and to convert the tenure of lands chargeable therewith into that of *franc aleu roturier*.

WHEREAS it is expedient to facilitate the commutation of the tenure of lands held *en roture*, in the several fiefs and seigniories of Lower Canada, by more ample and more effectual legislative provisions than are now in force; Be it therefore enacted, &c. Preamble.

That the Act passed in the eighth year of Her Majesty's Reign, and intituled, "*An Act the better to facilitate optional commutation of the tenure of lands en roture in the Seigniories and Fiefs in Lower Canada, into that of franc aleu roturier,*" and the Act passed in the twelfth year of Her Majesty's Reign, and intituled, "*An Act to amend the Act passed in the eighth year of Her Majesty's Reign, and intituled 'An Act the better to facilitate optional commutation of the tenure of lands en roture in the seigniories and fiefs in Lower Canada into that of franc aleu roturier,'*" shall be, and they are hereby repealed." 8 Vict. c. 42, and 12 Vict. c. 49, repealed.

II. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the owner of any land held *en fief* or *en roture* in Lower Canada, to free the said land from all seigniorial rights recognized by this Act, to be redeemable (*rachetables*) as being due or payable to the Seigneur, proprietor of the Seigniority in which such land is situate, on paying the price of the redemption (*rachat*) of such rights, in the manner hereinafter provided. Redemption of Seigniorial rights.

III. The only seigniorial rights and dues on which a money value can be set, and recognized by this Act to be redeemable as such, are the following:— What rights shall be redeemable.

1. All fixed rights, that is to say, all annual Seigniorial rents, (*redevances*) consisting in money, grain, fowls, articles, or fruits of the earth, payable under the name of Seigniorial *cens et rentes*, or under any other name whatsoever, which are only payable or due by the owner or holder of a portion of land so long as he is the owner or holder thereof, and according to the length of time during which he has been in possession, and the right of banality of mills for the grinding of corn therein, whether the same be driven by water or by wind.