

In the course of these debates in which members of the Legislative Council very well conversant with the laws of the Province of Quebec took part, not one of them has expressed an opinion adverse to the rights of the Seigniors.

The Hon. M. Letellier de Sr. Just, now Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec, said among other things " page 14 of the same pamphlet :

" There were certain rights in regard to fishing, which had existed from time immemorial, and he held it would neither be just nor right to deprive the present claimants of those rights without compensating them for their loss. Changes in this respect could not be effected without proper indemnity to the parties."

III.

Titles from the King of France to the claimants, granting to them the right of Fishing in the rivers of Rimouski and Metis.

It is proper now to consider the nature and extent of the rights of the claimants. Their right of property as Seigniors or owners of the Seigniories of Rimouski and Métis is not disputed ; they have succeeded to the original grantees, and have been in possession from time immemorial. They have been acknowledged by the Government when the cadastres of these Seigniories have been publicly deposited and approved. They have therefore clearly the right to claim the same privileges which have been granted by the kings of France to the original Seigniors. The original grants are in their possession, bearing the ratification of the