

BILL.

An Act to define Seigniorial Rights in Lower Canada, and to facilitate the redemption thereof.

**W**HEREAS it would be advantageous to facilitate the commutation of the tenure of lands held *en roture* in the several Seigniories of Lower Canada, by more ample and effectual Legislative provisions than are now in force; and whereas considerable time must necessarily elapse before the tenure of all such lands can be commuted, and it would therefore be just and advantageous to define the Seigniorial Rights to which such lands will, in future, be subject, and to restore, in as far as circumstances will allow, all such legal remedies as the *consitaire* formerly possessed against all encroachment or exaction on the part of the Seignior as well as those of which the Seignior could avail himself for the maintenance of his rights; Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and intituled, *An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada*, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, 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roture in the Seigniories and Fiefs in Lower Canada, into that of franc-aleu roturier,'* shall be, and they are hereby repealed.

Preamble.

Acts 8 V. c. 42 and

12 V. c. 49 repealed.

CONCESSION OF LANDS.

II. That from and after the passing of this Act, all and every the judicial powers, and authority vested in and granted to the Governor, and the Intendant of New France or Canada, by the *arrét* of His Most Christian Majesty the King of France, dated at Marly, the sixth day of July, one thousand seven hundred and eleven, in relation to lands in New France or Canada aforesaid, conceded in Seigniories, and by any other laws in force in Canada at the time of the cession of the Country to Great Britain, shall and may be exercised by the Superior Court of Lower Canada, and by the Judges of the said Court or by the Circuit Courts, due regard being had to the extensions, restrictions and modifications of the said judicial powers and authority made by this Act.

Powers of the Governor and Intendant vested in the Superior and Circuit Courts.

III. And in order to facilitate the exercise of the said judicial powers and authority—Be it enacted, That no Seignior shall hereafter concede to any one individual any extent of wild land, ex-

Extent of Concession to any one party limited.