

and so prejudiced the minds of the people, that I question if an impartial Jury could be found in the other two Counties.

Q. Are all in these two Counties leaseholders; or what proportion do you consider there is of leaseholders in these two counties?

A. I do not suppose that they are all leaseholders. I have not the least idea of what proportion the freeholders bear to the leaseholders.

Q. Have you seen the Census taken in this Island in 1833.

A. I do not think I have ever seen it.

Q. Can you name those few individuals who have instigated the people to resist the payment of rents in those Counties?

A. I cannot.

Q. Then is your information hearsay?

A. I never heard them myself instigating them. I take it from current report, and from what I have learned in the country, and been told by the tenants.

Q. Would you please to name to the Committee one or two of those tenants who told you that they had been advised to resist the payment of their rents, and by whom have they told you they have been so advised?

A. The information was of that general kind which renders it impossible for me to call to mind any particular individual.

Q. You have been on Lot 44, King's County, lately?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. Did you settle those on that Township, who were not freeholders?

A. I gave Leases to most of those who had no leases before.

Q. Can you name any of those who had no lease before you went there?

A. Yes, Mr. Parker was one.

Q. What was the rent imposed in those Leases?

A. One shilling per acre, sterling. It might be One shilling and sixpence—I do not recollect.

Q. Did they pay you the rent in arrears, or any part of it?

A. No, they did not, in money.

Q. How did you settle with them?

A. They surrendered their old Lease, divided the Farm into two, took new Leases at two shillings an acre, sterling. The additional amount of rent was not quite the interest upon the arrears of rent due upon the farms.

Q. Did any purchase their farms from you when you were there?

A. No, but several were about purchasing.

Q. What was the lowest sum you offered to sell the

fee simple of those farms to the occupants for?

A. Twenty shillings sterling, per acre.

Q. What sum would you have taken from Mr. Parker, had he offered to purchase?

A. Two hundred pounds sterling, or 20 years' purchase.

Q. Do you know the average price of Government Land in New Brunswick?

A. As to Government land, I cannot say at what rate it is sold, as I am not sure of the system at present followed in regard to that. I think the Land Company bought for two shillings and nine-pence per acre, and sold it again for ten shillings per acre.

Q. Supposing an individual claiming to be proprietor of Five thousand acres, or any quantity of land, that said individual has for 15 or 20 years appeared to claim this right, and has occasionally, by selling the timber growing thereon, exercised the right of an owner; and that such individual gives leases to other individuals, who subsequently find out that he has no claim to the land, or at least none on record, which they can find in this Island, could these lessees plead against such lessor that he had no title to exact rent?

A. In some cases they could. In some they could not. If you mean in an action for rent, they would be stopped from denying the title of their lessor.

Q. In what case could they plead against the lessor?

A. In covenant by them, or in case of eviction. I mean by an action of covenant by the lessees, against the lessor—they could then shew his want of title.

JOHN LAWSON, Esq., called in and examined.

Q. Have you been Solicitor General?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you inform this Committee how the present Solicitor General obtained his office?

A. No, I cannot.

Q. Was there any consideration and what, given to you by that gentleman, or any person on his behalf, to resign?

A. The terms of my resignation of that office are contained in a letter sent by me to the Lieutenant Governor, which letter is to the purport following—"that from private, and not from political reasons, I beg leave to tender my resignation of the office of Solicitor General." The present Solicitor General gave me no consideration, nor was any consideration given to me on behalf of the present Solicitor General. I did not sell the office. I would not have resigned the office, had there been any remuneration equal to the responsibility.