

1151

1854.]

BILL.

[No.15].

An Act to define and limit Seigniorial Rights, to facilitate the redemption thereof, and to abolish all *lods et ventes* or fines upon the mutation of lands held *en roture* in Lower Canada.

WHEREAS it would be advantageous to facilitate the commutation of the tenure of lands held *en roture* in the several Seigniories of Lower Canada, and to ensure such commutation within a reasonable time, 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 will be commuted, and it is therefore desirable to define and limit the Seigniorial Rights to which such lands will, in future, be subject, and at once to abolish the right to mutation fines (*lods et ventes*), exclusive rights to flowing waters, and other privileges which constitute barriers to improvement and taxes on industry and enterprise: 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, as follows:

Preamble.

I. The Act passed in the eighth year of Her Majesty's Reign, 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, 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en roture in the Seigniories and Fiefs in Lower Canada, into that of franc-aleu roturier,* shall be and they are hereby repealed.

Former commutation repealed.

UNCONCEDED LANDS.

II. Every Seignior who possesses within his *censive* any wild lands, shall be entitled to dismember from such wild lands and to reserve for his own private use, and as his absolute property, to be held by him, his heirs, successors and assigns, in *allodium* (*en franc aleu*), a domain which shall not consist

Domain granted to the Seignior and limited.