

## THE TUCKERS TOWN LAND QUESTION

What is Proposed in the Bill to Come Before our Legislature and What Some Owners Say.

There are twenty-three signers to a petition which landholders in Tuckers town mean to set before the House of Assembly when the bill for limited compulsion comes up.

Our best information is that these signers represent about ten different properties in the Parish.

There are various reasons given for the position taken by them; in some cases a larger sum is asked than the Company has seen fit to offer; in other cases there is a sentimental consideration involved; in still other instances the owner has no objection to moving but wishes to choose a particular spot in exchange for his present location and to get it under certain conditions.

Most of these individuals are amenable to argument, as we may judge by the statements of certain among them.

A typical case is that of Osborn Talbot, who is building a cottage on land belonging to his wife, one of the nine children of O. C. Lambert. According to Talbot he has been tentatively offered from £200 to £250 for his place, a sum which he acknowledges is a good market price, but which does not cover his own conditions. He says he is a fisherman as well as a small farmer and the site he holds is of value to him because it gives him access to the beach. He says that if he could get in fee simple a similar property near the water he would consider moving out. But he objects to being given a small holding inland, abutting on other cottages, as has been proposed. The plan suggested to him and his neighbours, he says, of a village lot where all would be settled closely together, does not appeal to him because he does not wish his children hanging about with a lot of others in adjoining yards. Neither does he wish to bring up his boys as golf caddies but prefers that they learn a trade or become farmers. Also he dislikes the idea of having his property arbitrarily valued by a committee and being forced to take their award. As for the development

plan he realizes that it might be a good thing and he would not stand in the way of it, if his own requirements were granted.

Now as we understand the general proposition to come before the Legislature it aims to settle just such disputed points by reference to Commissioners appointed by H.E. the Governor. The men appointed will be empowered to serve as mediators and will be required to hear both sides of any question. They will have full latitude in the matter and can offer the landowner certain alternative proposals to those already submitted with the object of satisfying both parties. The company must pay the expense of this commission.

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In the event of their being unable, after due negotiation, to reach an agreement with the parties on either side, they will hand the question over to a jury as constituted under the Public Lands Act. With the men on this jury would rest the final decision.

The Bill to give effect to the Tuckers Town scheme will be brought before the House of Assembly very shortly.

Hon. S. S. Spurling has received his copy of the Bill as the member in charge of the matter, and he expects to bring it up for its first reading in about a week's time.

This will, of course, be a purely formal motion, and the discussion will take place on the second reading. This will follow about a week after the first reading.

The title of the Bill is The Bermuda Development Act, 1920.

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