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as soon after the termination of the American war, in 1783, had become complicated, inasmuch as many transfers of the original interest vested by certificates had taken place, and many of the present claimants, are either descendants from the nominees or persons named to the occupancy thereby, or connected with them through a chain of intermediate purchasers. In the legal interpretation of Titles however, strictly taken, not one of these persons can be regarded but as an occupant, although in every consideration of an equitable nature, that possession must attach the idea of property to it. The examination of the great number of such derivative claims to lands in Gaspé, can only be made effectually through the medium of Commissioners, and he should, therefore give that plan his cordial support. The measure would be a salutary one, and would powerfully contribute to efface the melancholy impression which in that district, had long taken place, that it was both remote and neglected.

On the expediency of granting further supplies for the completing and finishing the Gaol and Court-Hall at New-Charlisle, he would not occupy the time of the House at present, for, he believed that matter would more properly become the enquiry of a Special Committee, which he had no doubt, should receive every satisfactory information as to the same. He was led, he said, to take notice of the inconveniences complained of by Petitioners residing in the District of Gaspé, for want of sufficient Jurisdiction of the Provincial Court, the cognizance of which was restricted to the sum of Twenty pounds sterling. He had no doubt in his mind but that the above representation of inconvenience was well founded. The Petitioners were of the most respectable description in that District, being actually in the Magistracy, so that their representation derived credibility from that circumstance, but, in fact, they were, in point of interest, deeply concerned in the event of the proposed alteration of the Judicature Act. As far as regarded the district of Gaspé, the words Magistrate and Merchant were, it might be said, synonymous or interchangeable terms in that district, and in the latter capacity, they had no doubt, fully experienced the evil for which they prayed a legislative remedy. If we, indeed, attend for a moment to the history of a suit at law, instituted by a Plaintiff resident in the district of Gaspé, in the Court of King's Bench at Quebec, it will be plainly seen that the remote situation of these in respect to each other, must render nugatory the legal remedy afforded at the latter place, and must inevitably operate as a serious discouragement to creditors making their just demands. For the time he had attended at the Bar of Quebec, he had witnessed but few instances of Litigation there, originating from the district of Gaspé, and was toled impute the circumstance to the same cause as the Petitioners have done, and not to want of business there. The absence of Litigation, he was aware, might be also imputed to the influence of moral habits, as well as to the existence of trade and population, for to his knowledge, some parts of the Province on a parity as to these, were, nevertheless, widely different in respect to the production of law suits. Litigation, however, is as often a test of public prosperity, and may be regarded as one of the evils naturally concomitant on an increasing commerce and population, and rising just in the same proportion, or, perhaps, a greater one. The detail of a Suit at Law in the Court of King's Bench at Quebec, betwixt parties resident in the district of Gaspé, will clearly shew how much the different proceedings, which must take place, must be injuriously delayed, by the great distance of the District from Quebec. In the first place, the party living in the district of Gaspé, and desirous of suing another inhabitant there, in the Court of King's Bench at Quebec, must attend for that purpose, or send up instructions to a Counsel or Attorney, to sue out and transmit to the Sheriff of Gaspé, for service, a summons, which, by the Judicature Act, can only be returned in the terms of June or October. The summons served is next returned, the parties then come to join issue, and a commission is sued out directed to the Provincial Judge of Gaspé, to take the deposition of the witnesses living there, and this is transmitted, executed and returned. Then follows Judgment and Execution, to be sued out and transmitted to the Sheriff of Gaspé, who levies and makes his return to the Court at Quebec. Here are, therefore, no less than six different proceedings, each of them subject to the delay of a passage betwixt Quebec and the District of Gaspé, and when the distance the most direct may be from 450 to 700 miles, the sitting of a suit at law, may extend to several thousand miles, ...hour

speaking of the circuitous occasioned by storms and tempests, or the total failure of a conveyance, by shipwreck. How many attendances then at Quebec by the parties! what tedious delays from year to year by the length, the uncertainty, & the risks of the conveyances! All productive of great expence and often personal misery. The change of the Judicature Act so far as it regards the District of Gaspé, by enlarging the Jurisdiction of the Provincial Court to the sum of Sixty pounds sterling, with an appeal to the Court of King's Bench at Quebec, in all cases where the sum may exceed Twenty pounds sterling, was, therefore, in his opinion, of the most urgent expedience, which, while it would have the advantage of removing all the difficulties at present incident to necessary litigation, would not, in fact, operate much to extend the powers of the Provincial Judge, in cases of equal or greater importance, for it must be remembered that, where witnesses in a cause reside in the District of Gaspé, they are not required by the Court of King's Bench to attend at Quebec, but they are examined in the District where resident by the Provincial Judge, by virtue of a writ of *commissio regatoire*, and upon whose reception of evidence in the cause, the Court of King's Bench pronounces Judgment.

No doubt, from the adoption of such measures for the welfare of the District of Gaspé as proposed by the two first cases of the Gaol and Court Hall, and the appointment of Commissioners to investigate all claims to Lands to be considered by the House, there would arise pecuniary demands, but he was happy to state, that from the information he had been enabled to derive concerning the District of Gaspé on the matter of its Revenue, it might fairly be considered that the latter would prove commensurate to the former, and that in fact the expence of these improvements and advantages would be defrayed by the district itself.

The revenue arising from the District is collected in two different ways, which may be said to be direct or indirect; the first mode is through the Agency of the Deputy Collectors of the Customs established in the said District, at Gaspé Harbour and New Charlisle; and by the latter mode the Custom House Duties are collected at Quebec, but the articles on which these are raised are consumed in the District of Gaspé.

As in both cases the consumption of the dutiable articles takes place in the District of Gaspé, it is evident that in one or other of the above ways, it is that District which furnishes or yields the revenue.

For a Statement which he should have the honor of submitting to the House, and which has been alluded to by the Honorable Member for the County of Dorchester, being a compendious Statistical View of the District of Gaspé in its Fisheries, Commerce, Revenue, &c. he could take upon himself to assure the house of its correctness.

It had been drawn up by Justice Crawford of that District, who, from the general intelligence he possesses of the situation and circumstances thereof, acquired by a long residence, in the discharge of his official duties, may therefore be well entitled to consideration.

The zeal of that gentleman in advancing the interests of that District, by originating, and at great personal inconvenience attending the details of every public measure, which the Government or Legislature have hitherto deemed expedient for execution therein, had led him, on this occasion, to elucidate these matters in the above form, in the expectation of thus contributing by accurate information, to the further advancement of the welfare of the District.—Mr. Stuart then read over the Statement, which we have taken from the manuscript, and here give it verbatim.

A Statistical View of the District of Gaspé, in its Fisheries, Agriculture, Population, the Revenue and Expenses attending it.

FISHERIES

Are Sedentary or not Sedentary; the greatest part of the Cod Fishery belonging to the District is of the former description, carried on in open boats measuring 18 feet length of keel; and the part of the said Fishery not sedentary is carried on by Schooners which proceed to a distant fishing station, such as the Orphan Bank, &c. There are about the number of ten or twelve schooners thus employed for the space of two months in the year.

The number of hands employed in a fishing voyage by each of the above schooners, is usually eight or nine persons—and in the sedentary fishery each boat is manned by two fishermen, so that the employment given by this branch of the fishery is extensive, there being not fewer than four hundred boats of the above description actually fitted out and employed from day to day nearly the whole period of the fishery, which begins in May, and ends in October. The fishery so conducted, is distinguished on the Coast of Gaspé, into the Summer and Fall Fishery, the first of