

# FIRST REPORT, &c.



*The Committee appointed to consider and report on the Documents sent down to this House by His Excellency the Lieut. Governor on the subject of School Lands, respectfully beg leave to make this, their first Report.*

Your committee, upon a perusal of these important papers learn that in the year 1797 the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of this Province passed a joint address to His Majesty imploring that His Majesty would be graciously pleased to direct the appropriation of a certain quantity of the waste lands of the Crown as a fund for the establishment and support of a respectable Grammar school in each District thereof, and also of a College or University for the instruction of youth in the different branches of liberal knowledge." To which His Majesty was graciously pleased to express his intention "to comply with the wishes of the Legislature of his Province of Upper Canada in such manner as should be judged to be the most effectual. First, by the establishment of free grammar schools in those Districts, in which they are called for, and in due process of time, by establishing other seminaries of a larger and more comprehensive nature for the promotion of religious and moral learning, and the study of the Arts and Sciences." For which purpose, Mr. President Russell was directed to "consult the members of the Executive Council and the Judges and Law officers of the crown and to report in what manner and to what extent a portion of the Crown Lands might be appropriated and rendered productive towards the formation of a fund for these purposes, out of which His Majesty might allot such salaries as he should judge proper for the School Masters of such Free Schools as should thereafter be appointed.— And on the 1st December, 1798 the Executive Council reported to Mr. President Russell, "That an appropriation of 500,000 acres or ten townships after deducting the crown and clergy sevenths would be a sufficient fund for the establishment and maintenance of the Royal Founda-

tion of four Grammar schools, and an university in the Province of Upper Canada" and that the proposed school fund should when raised be applied:

- 1st. For the erection of the necessary buildings.
- 2nd. For the payment of the salaries of the masters.
- 3rd. For keeping the buildings in repair and the purchase of Books and philosophical apparatus, and that £3,000 currency be applied to erect each building, and £180 per annum for the establishment and support of a free Grammar school in each District.

The Council also reported that the Towns of Cornwall, Kingston, Newark, and Sandwich were at that time the most proper places for the sites of four schools, first necessary, and that the Town of York was the most suitable for a University, and that two of the schools, namely, at Kingston and Newark, should be commenced first, and that whenever the appropriated fund should be found sufficient, not only to bear the expense of the erection and endowment of those two schools but also to leave a residue sufficient for the establishment and future maintenance of a seminary of a larger and more comprehensive nature, that steps should be taken to endow the two other schools.

The Executive Council also recommended that the provision for the establishment and maintenance of the University should at least be equal to that for the four schools taken together.

Your committee, upon looking over the remaining Documents which His Excellency had the goodness to communicate to this House, are informed that the attention of the Council was again directed to the school land reservation, on the 7th January 1819, and that they reported to His Excellency, Sir P. Maitland, that no trace of any answer to the report of the Council of 1st December 1798 could be found in the Council Office; that as they were of opinion with the