

taking into view the present state of the settlements ; for instance, the County of Saint Francis, which extends from the Seignior of Courval to latitude forty-five degrees, a distance in a straight line of about ninety miles, and by the roads or settlements about one hundred and thirty miles. The places of Election are fixed at Drummondville and Sherbrooke, whereas the chief settlements are about Shipton and east of Ascot ; it is out of the question that most of the people would or could conveniently attend the Elections, and therefore the inhabitants would not be fairly represented, the roads also being very bad to travel. Again, if any particular regulations, such as County or Circuit Courts of Quarter Sessions or Register Offices were established, the inconvenience would be double, and in all cases, the settlements being scattered over a large tract of country, I think it would be best to divide the Townships according to the plan I have mentioned, which rather makes them circular and therefore more convenient for every purpose for which a County may be established. I would also remark that, according to the division of Counties in the Bill throughout the Province, a Member is allowed where the population fluctuates from three to seven or eight thousand souls, and two members where the population amounts to from eight to thirteen thousand ; but averaging the whole population at five hundred thousand, to return ninety members, two more than in the Bill ; and all the Townships fifty thousand, it would entitle the Townships to return ten members. Taking these considerations into view and what I have already stated to the Committee relative to the insulated state of various settlements in the Townships, and that they have not had hitherto a voice in the Legislature, and also the probability of their being more rapidly increased than those parts of the Province older in settlement, I conceive that the Townships ought to be divided as I have mentioned, and be enabled to return the number of members to the Assembly which I have already stated in my evidence.

Answer to the Second Question :—

I believe there is a very great error in the return of the number of inhabitants of the Townships made in the last Census, and which is easily accounted for, viz. : that the individual taking the Census through a large Territory on which the inhabitants are scattered throughout, and the settlements and settlers isolated in many cases, it would be almost impossible to be correct unless the person taking the Census knew each person, settlement and farm, so that many might be unintentionally overlooked, and therefore the numbers returned less than what they actually are. These mistakes would not be so likely to occur in the seigniorial parts of the Province, as each settlement opens generally concession after concession, and therefore the person taking the Census, following each concession, would be less likely to mistake in taking down each individual. I say this from experience, for on counting the souls in several Townships, and from other good information, I found about ten per cent. more, and in some cases from twenty to thirty per cent. more than in the census. And I believe from my own knowledge of the Townships and other information, that there is at the present time an average