

The mode of selection, namely, by the Sheriff, and the form of summoning, returning, and impanelling Juries by the Law of England, as it then stood, were taken as the guide by the Legislature of this Province when they passed our Jury Act, the only substantial difference being in the qualification, and the effect of that difference being to open to the Sheriffs here a much wider field for selection, than was permitted to them in England. In other respects, our Statute follows very closely the 3rd Geo. II. chap. 25; and most of its clauses, indeed, are copied from it, with very trifling variations.

In England they seem to have been content to retain this system, with which our own so closely agreed, for more than thirty years after our Legislature had taken it as their guide: and when (in 1825) Mr. Peel introduced his Act, (6th Geo. IV. chap. 50,) for consolidating and amending the laws relative to Jurors and Juries, it was no part of his plan to make any change in the mode of selecting the Jurors from among those qualified, nor has any change in that respect been ever made, or so far as we know proposed. On the contrary, the power of selection is still left with the Sheriff.

The objects of that Statute so far as it concerns Juries were—

- 1st.—To repeal all former laws and embody all the provisions on the subject in one Act.
- 2nd.—To increase the number of persons qualified to serve on Juries.