

body whom the imperial administration can deprive of place, are fit to pass upon and judge of the constitutionality of laws passed in Great Britain affecting this Colony; or even of the true meaning of laws passed by the legislature of this Colony?

*First Report.*

Or is it to be expected that while the chief judge of the colony both in criminal and civil law, continues to take an active part in the political affairs and differences of the Province as chairman of the legislative council, holding that and his judicial office during pleasure, that he will obtain that confidence in his impartiality in the exercise of his judicial functions, from the people of Upper Canada, which is so essential to the peace and tranquility of the community?

*lessens or destroys public confidence in the integrity of the courts of law.*

The effects of an unequal state of the representation of persons equally qualified and equally interested in obtaining good government and equal laws, throughout a population the majority of whom are freeholders, and the introduction into Your Honorable House of a number of persons more or less dependant upon the executive for the whole or a part of their salaries and incomes, are more particularly detailed in the appendix to this report. The manner in which gentlemen holding office, have voted on some important questions during the present session will be seen by reference to the table marked F. On consulting the table of assessed value of real estate, the inequality of the representation will be found to be nearly as great in regard to property as it is in regard to population. The counties of Kent and Essex, assessed only £124,577, send two members; while York county, assessed £322,085 is allowed but an equal number. Lanark, assessed £97,772, has only *one* representative; while Durham, assessed £65,912, has *two*, and Simcoe and Haldimand, neither of which is assessed the fourth part as much as Lanark have nevertheless twice its influence in the expenditure and imposition of the taxes. The town and county of York are represented by three members; and there are eleven members who have seats in the House from towns and counties the assessed value of property in which is not altogether equal to the assessed value of property in York county alone. The county of Halton, with assessed property value £211,133, returns only two members, while Kingston, Frontenac

*Reference to appendix.*

*On the character and quality of the votes of public officers.*

*Inequality of the representation, with regard to property and direct taxation.*

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