

such is not the case; and have not the slightest doubt of the competency of the country, even in its present depressed state, without inconvenience, to bear all the expenses necessary for that purpose. It has been a favourite object with interested persons to throw a cloud of misrepresentation on every thing connected with the country; its resources were little known, except to those who were making them subservient to their interest.

If Newfoundland has not possessed the means of paying the expense of a civil government, it must appear extraordinary that so many persons who came there without a shilling in their pockets were able, in the course of a few years, to realize fortunes, to retire from the island, and live in splendour in other countries. The Committee can now point out to your Lordship individuals residing in London, Poole, Dartmouth, Bristol, Edinburgh, Greenock, Cork and Waterford, and other parts not alone of the United Kingdom, but even in the United States of America, who made their properties in Newfoundland. If individuals could in a few years realize from the labour and industry of the people sufficient to enable them to retire from the country to live independently in other countries, surely it is not too much for the Committee to say, that the same people can pay the expenses of their government which would revert back on themselves with manifold advantages.

To prove the ability of the inhabitants to pay the expense of their government, the Committee beg to state a few well known facts: The town of St. John's is the capital of the island, and the principal depositary for the supplies and productions of the fishery; the ground on which the stores, wharfs and dwelling-houses are erected, is chiefly owned by persons residing in Great Britain, whose ancestors gained a title to it merely by occupying it for the purposes of the fishery; in consequence of the great increase of trade and population, the ground has become valuable, and the rent now charged for that situate at the waterside of Saint John's, is from 20 to 40s. per foot, on which large sums have been expended by the tenants in making the necessary erections; a sum not less than £ . . . is annually remitted from the town of Saint John's for rents; can it then be doubted that a people, who pay such large sums to absentee landlords, who do not contribute in the slightest degree to the support of the country, could pay the expenses of a civil government?