

ple of the British Constitution, by which the will of the representatives of the people deliberately expressed becomes a supreme Law to which all who take office must submit, and by which the loss of public confidence insures the loss of office and power, is in Upper Canada unknown. Instead of admitting the solemn responsibility of public men; instead of political rights equally enjoyed by all, the people are limited to the principle of petitioning an Executive Council who may or may not hear their complaints, and a Governor over whose advisers they have no constitutional control; and interests are generated, opposed to them, and over which they can exercise no effective influence.

By the Constitutional Act, ministers of the gospel, and all priests and ecclesiastics, were prohibited from sitting in the House of Assembly, but might be called to the Legislative Council. Clergymen were not, however, prevented from being appointed members of the Executive Government of the Colony.

The state of the representation in the House of Assembly was altered and amended by successive Parliaments; and the act of 1820, now in force, contains the following provisions:

Counties containing one thousand souls are to be represented by one member. When they contain four thousand inhabitants they are to send two members. Each Town in which the Quarter Sessions of the District are authorized to be holden is to send one member as soon as it shall contain one thousand souls; and whenever an University shall be established it is to be represented by one member. Counties containing less than one thousand souls to be annexed to the next adjoining County. Persons qualified to vote in towns shall not vote in the counties in which such towns are situated, upon the same freehold. This act did not authorize any reduction of the number of members then representing any county or counties.

In an act passed in 1824 the County of Carleton was divided into two counties, but it was provided that each County should only send one member to the House of Assembly whatever might be its population.

The inequality of the present state of the representation in the House of Assembly is so very great as to enable the minority to pass laws binding on the majority; and

*First Report.*

*Ecclesiastics prohibited from sitting in the Assembly only.*

*Representation Law amended in 1820.*

*Present arrangement.*

*Bathurst District.*

*Minority may pass laws to bind the majority.*