

We should omit a matter of the first importance to the happy conduct of our civil affairs, did we forbear to bring under the consideration of Your Honorable House, among the other means by which the administration endeavor to maintain their power, the charge of disloyalty against those who question the policy of the present administration, a system of espionage spreading from the seat of government, over the face of the country---a threatened degeneracy in the state of society, endangering by the insidious operation of those morbid causes that public feeling, truly British, and yet happily alive in this colony; the undue influence over elections in many ways, but especially by the issuing of patents, granting land, sent into the country in profusion to be distributed by candidates acceptable to the present provincial administration---the acceptance of office by members of Your Honorable House without vacating their seats as is the necessary consequence in England, and the almost mortal violence offered to the constitution by the exercise of worse than military rule, in the intimidation of the more dependent members of the Legislative Council into the views of the administration, at the peril of their offices, as was exposed in the testimony of the Honorable William Dickson and the Honorable Thomas Clark in their evidence before a committee of the House of Assembly during the last session of the Provincial Parliament. Wherein, we His Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, being greatly aggrieved, most humbly, most earnestly and confidently pray for redress.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound will ever pray.

(Signed) JOSEPH CAWTHRA,
and one thousand six hundred and twenty-eight others.

Petition of S. Cutler and 172 others, Freeholders of the County of Stormont.

To the Honorable the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, in Parliament assembled..

The petition of the undersigned, Freeholders of the County of Stormont, in the Eastern District.

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

1st. That your petitioners beg leave to call the attention of your honorable House to the necessity of liberally extending the jurisdiction of the District Court, and the impropriety of allowing the Judges to receive fees; and recommend a certain salary in lieu thereof, as more compatible with the dignity of the office and independence of the officer; and at the same time beg leave to state, that great inconvenience arises from the Judge residing out of the District.

2nd. Your petitioners also beg leave to represent that the fees and allowances to the attorneys and clerk of that court, are unprecedented for extravagance and extortion in any country. It frequently happens that the cost of collection of small debts, is from six to eight pounds currency, and the charges of the Court of King's Bench, though not so much felt or known, will bear to be reduced one half.

3rd. Your petitioners would also beg leave to represent to your honorable House, that a late act passed for facilitating the collection of small debts, is found greatly defective, and recommend to the consideration of your honorable House in lieu thereof, an act authorising a single justice to try a cause to the amount of £12 10s. currency---that a jury of six be impanelled (if required by either party)---that the court be of record, and subject to appeal to the District Court.

4th. Your petitioners also beg leave to represent, that the present fees and allowances to the Clerk of the Peace, are paid with a profusion, greater by far than is necessary for any uncommon talent or ability needful in its faithful discharge.

5th. And your petitioners also beg leave to represent, to your Honorable House, in an especial manner the support and encouragement of a Provincial Agricultural Society. Your petitioners are aware that it would be more desirable that Agricultural Societies should be formed throughout the province ere the legislature is called to take them under its protection, but of the various attempts made to effect so desirable an object, they have proved altogether abortive, or are very confined in their benefits: there must be a general and elastic spring pervading the whole province, to be efficient, and that can only be effected by your Honorable House. It is Agricultural Societies that have made England little less than a well cultivated garden; and it is similar societies, that enable our American neighbors to undersell us in our own markets; to supply our American Colonies with those very articles we should furnish ourselves; and nothing have we to give in exchange, but our ill-fated dollars.

6th. And your petitioners also beg leave to represent to your Honorable House, the constant drain of our specie for the article of whiskey; which is now smuggled from the United States; and which ever will be the case until it can be distilled in the province as cheap as it can be there purchased.

7th. And your petitioners would also further beg leave to represent, that the actual origin of nearly all disputes and litigations among neighbors, (notwithstanding whatever shape they may assume in the end) arise from the want of line fences---and your petitioners are not aware of any sufficient law now in force respecting the same. They therefore humbly beg leave to request, that your Honorable House would take into consideration the propriety of a law, the proceedings of which may be both summary and unexpensive; providing relief for such persons as have heretofore or may hereafter be compelled to build more than their proportion of such fences.

8th. And your petitioners further beg leave to represent to your Honorable House that in their humble opinion, it would be greatly to the advantage of the Province, to allow horses, neat cattle, and all kinds of live stock, brought into the province for the purpose of improving the different breeds, to be admitted free of any charge or duty whatever.

9th. Your petitioners have endeavored to state to your Honorable House, the above different subjects in as concise a manner as possible confident that that talent and love of country which gained you at the late election, the suffrages of a free people, will now be exerted for their good.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound will ever pray.

(Signed) S. CUTLER,
and one hundred and seventy-two others: